



A WING AND A PRAYER

Discovery May Help Solve MH370 Mystery

French police officers inspect a piece of debris from a plane in Saint-Andre, Reunion Island. Investigators are working to connect it to the Malaysia Airlines flight that vanished more than a year ago. (AP Photo/Lucas Marie) Page 3

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Discovery May Help Solve MH370 Mystery

A. MELDRUM

S. CORBET

Associated Press

SAINT-ANDRE, Reunion (AP)

— A barnacle-encrusted wing part that washed up on a remote Indian Ocean island could help solve one of aviation's greatest mysteries, as investigators work to connect it to the Malaysia Airlines flight that vanished more than a year ago.

The surprise discovery of the debris on a rocky beach stirred hopes and emotion among families of the missing, after a year and a half of grieving and frustration at a lack of answers, despite a wide, deep and expensive multinational search effort in the southern Indian Ocean, the China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.

Even if it is confirmed to be a long-awaited first clue to the disappearance of Flight 370, there's no guarantee that investigators can still find the plane's recorders or other remains a year and a half later.

The coming hours and days will be crucial. French authorities moved the plane piece from the beach to the local airport on Reunion, and will send it next to the city of Toulouse, where it may arrive Saturday morning, according to the Paris prosecutor's office.

Toulouse is the hub of Europe's aerospace industry, with the headquarters of Airbus and a network of hangars and plane facilities. The plane part will be analyzed in special defense facilities used for airplane testing and analysis, according to the Defense Ministry.

Air safety investigators, including one from Boeing, have identified the component found on the French island of Reunion as a "flaperon" from the trailing edge of a Boeing 777 wing, a U.S. official said. The official wasn't authorized to be publicly named. Flight 370, which disappeared March 8, 2014, with

239 people on board, is the only 777 known to be missing. The unsuccessful search for the plane has raised concerns worldwide about whether airliners should be required to transmit their locations continually via satellite, especially when flying long distances over the ocean.

"It's the first real evidence that there is a possibility that a part of the aircraft may have been found," said Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss, whose country is leading the search for the plane in a remote patch of ocean far off Australia's west coast.

"It's too early to make that judgment, but clearly we are treating this as a major lead," Truss said.

If it turns out to be part of the Malaysian plane, that could bolster the theory that the plane deviated from its path between Kuala Lumpur and Beijing and turned south into the Indian Ocean.

And it would put to rest speculation that it could have traveled north or landed somewhere after being hijacked.

The discovery has changed the life of Reunion environmental worker Johnny Begue. He told The Associated Press that he stumbled across the plane part on Wednesday morning, while collecting stones to grind spices.

"I knew immediately it was part of an aircraft, but I didn't realize how important it was, that it could help to solve the mystery of what happened to the Malaysian jet," Begue, 46, told The Associated Press.

He said he called several of his workmates and they carried the wing fragment out of the water so that it would not be battered by the surf against the volcanic rocks that make up most of the beach.

Begue also discovered a piece of a suitcase about 2.5 meters away, he said, though it's unclear whether there is any link to the

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French police officers carry a piece of debris from a plane in Saint-Andre, Reunion Island. Air safety investigators, one of them a Boeing investigator, have identified the component as a flaperon from the trailing edge of a Boeing 777 wing, a U.S. official said. Flight 370, which disappeared March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board, is the only 777 known to be missing.

(AP Photo/Lucas Marie)

plane wing. Authorities wouldn't comment Thursday on whether Begue was the first to report discovering the component. Colleague Teddy

Riviere corroborated his account, and praised him for the discovery. Members of Begue's soccer team kidded him on his new fame in local media.

The wing piece is about 2 meters (6 feet) long. Investigators have found a number on the part, but it is not a serial or registration number, Truss said. It could be a maintenance number, which may help investigators figure out what plane it belongs to, he said.

Malaysian authorities also headed to Reunion and Toulouse.

"We have had many false alarms before, but for the sake of the families who have lost loved ones, and suffered such heartbreaking uncertainty, I pray that we will find out the truth so that they may have closure and peace," Prime Minister Najib Razak said in a statement.

French law enforcement authorities are on Reunion island to examine the piece, according to an official close to the investigation of the debris. □

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US Senate panel passes bill lifting crude oil export ban

KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

A U.S. Senate panel approved energy legislation Thursday that would lift the 40-year-old ban on crude oil exports and open more areas of the Arctic, Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean to oil and gas exploration.

Republican Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, chairman of the panel, championed the bill, which passed by a party-line vote of 12-10. She said lifting the ban would turn the U.S. into an energy superpower.

Democrat Maria Cantwell of Washington said after the vote that she has questions about what lifting the ban would mean for gasoline prices in her state, which she said are among the highest in the nation.

The committee also passed a comprehensive energy bill, but with bipartisan support. The legislation includes measures designed to make energy cheaper, such as streamlining the permitting process for some hydroelectric and geothermal companies, and sets up a grant program that will fund ap-

prenticeship programs for people seeking to work in the energy sector.

It also would make the Energy Department the agency responsible for coordinating the response if the energy grid is hacked. Lawmakers saved many of the more contentious amendments for debate on the Senate floor. Cantwell described Thursday's votes as an important first step. "We need to remind people of the good in the broader picture," Murkowski said.

The legislation to end the oil export ban faces a tougher path. No Democrats on the committee voted for the bill, which has been criticized by environmental groups.

The group Oceana called it "a massive give-away to Big Oil and a slap in the face to coastal communities that have vocally opposed offshore drilling."

A trade group representing the oil and gas industry said it's ironic that the U.S. would strike a deal to allow Iranian crude onto the global market while refusing to give the same opportunity to American producers. □

Four Democrats get behind Obama's Iran nuclear deal

LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four Democrats, including one who represents an American hostage in Iran, said Thursday they would support the Iran nuclear deal in a major boost for President Barack Obama.

"It's very clear to me that the agreement is the best path forward," Rep. Dan Kildee, who counts hostage Amir Hekmati as a constituent, told The Associated Press in an interview. "This agreement allows us to prevent (Iran) from gaining a nuclear weapon, and if they cheat, we will know it. If we don't have the agreement, we don't have that certainty."

Hekmati, an American, has been held in Iran since 2011. Kildee said he has



Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich. speaks in Livonia, Mich. Kildee says he supports President Barack Obama's nuclear deal with Iran.
(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

told Obama and Hekmati's relatives about his decision to back the international agreement, which calls on Iran to curb its nuclear program in exchange for billions of dollars in sanctions

relief.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee and a Senate candidate, said he would support the agreement, calling it "the

best path to achieve our goal of ensuring that Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon."

A former sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, Hekmati was visiting his ailing grandmother in 2011 when he was arrested on suspicion of spying. He was charged in January 2012 with espionage and sentenced to death. His family denies the charge. He is one of four Americans held by Iran. Democratic Sen. Tom Udall and Rep. David Price, a Democrat, also announced their support for the agreement, a boost for Obama amid a week of furious lobbying on Capitol Hill. "We have a choice between this deal or no deal" to stop Iran from developing a nuclear bomb, Udall said from the Senate floor.

"I do not believe we will get another chance."

Their statements come after multiple White House meetings this week between Obama and House Democrats, intended to counter an intense lobbying effort by AIPAC, which is behind a multimillion-dollar ad campaign. The pro-Israel lobby argues that Iran cannot be trusted. Obama and his allies say there is no alternative to the deal other than to let Iran proceed unsupervised.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, who has criticized the accord, reiterated his demand that the Obama administration turn over documents related to agreements between the IAEA and Iran that he described as "side agreements." □

Cincinnati cop pleads not guilty to murder in traffic stop



Former University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing appears at Hamilton County Courthouse for his arraignment in the shooting death of motorist Samuel DuBose, Thursday, July 30, 2015, in Cincinnati. Tensing pleaded not guilty to charges of murder and involuntary manslaughter. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

LISA CORNWELL
DAN SEWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A white U.S. police officer who shot a black motorist after stopping him over a missing license plate pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of murder and voluntary manslaughter.

The July 19 death of 43-year-old Samuel DuBose in Cincinnati, Ohio, comes amid months of national scrutiny of police dealings with African-Americans, especially those killed by officers.

Officer Ray Tensing, 25, appeared at his arraignment Thursday wearing a striped jail suit, with his hands

cuffed behind him.

When Judge Megan Shanahan set bond at \$1 million, people in the courtroom audience cheered and the judge rebuked them. The judge rejected the defense attorney's contention that Tensing wasn't a flight risk.

Tensing's attorney Stewart Mathews said that there

are two sides to the case and that the much-viewed body camera video of the stop can be interpreted differently from the prosecutor's version.

Mathews described Tensing, who is due back in court in August, as "very depressed" and "in shock at this point," adding that Tensing has felt "like he's been run over by a train from the state of the case and it continues." Tensing, who could face up to life in prison if convicted, has said he thought he was going to be dragged under the car and "feared for his life," according to Mathews.

Authorities so far have not focused on race in the death of DuBose. But city officials who viewed video footage released

from Tensing's body camera said the traffic stop shouldn't have led to a shooting.

Two campus police officers who responded to the shooting have been put on paid leave, university spokeswoman Michele Ralston confirmed Thursday.

Phillip Kidd and David Lindenschmidt are on leave while the university police department conducts an internal investigation, she said.

DuBose's family has urged the community to remain calm, as it has in a series of demonstrations since the shooting. Tensing had stopped DuBose for a missing front license plate, which is required in Ohio but not in neighboring states. □



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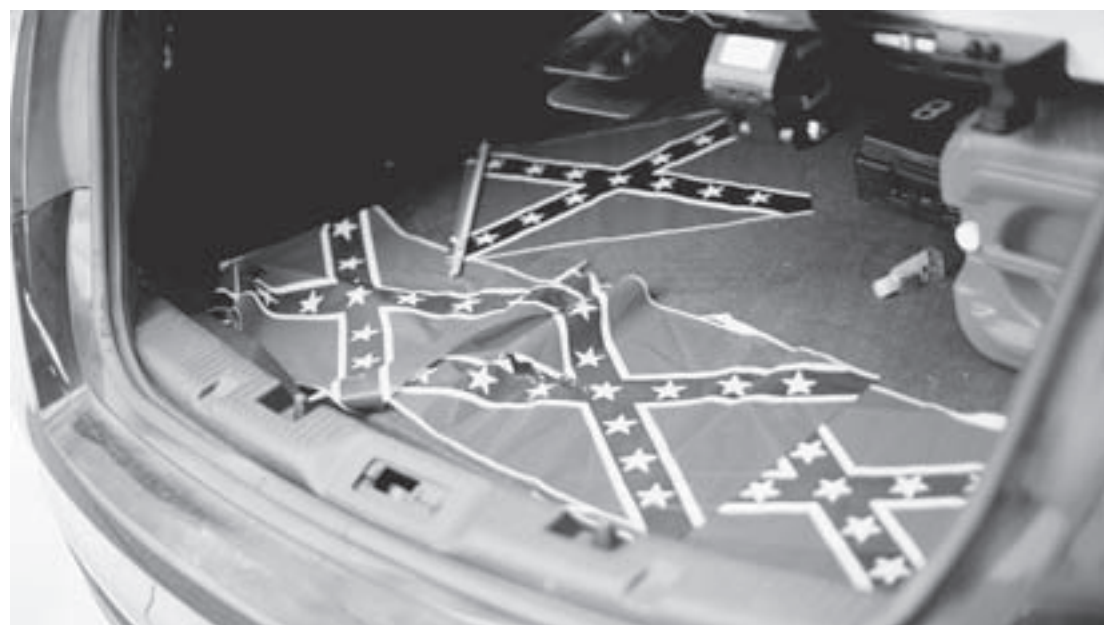
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Confederate flags placed near US church, King center



Confederate flags sit in the back of a police car outside Ebenezer Baptist Church Thursday, July 30, 2015, in Atlanta. U.S. authorities are investigating after several Confederate battle flags were discovered near the church and a civil rights center named after Martin Luther King, an iconic leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement, Thursday morning.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

**KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — Confederate battle flags were stealthily placed on the grounds of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s church, and authorities said Thursday they were looking for two white males who were

recorded on surveillance camera leaving the rebel banners behind.

Atlanta police Chief George Turner said his agency was working with federal authorities and they have not determined what charges might be levied. Turner said they

have not ruled out a hate crime. An officer from the Atlanta FBI's joint terrorism task force was on the scene "to better determine if any specific threats were received" and to provide support to Atlanta police, FBI Special Agent Steve Emmett said in an email.

King preached at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Avenue, once a bustling center of commerce for Atlanta's African-American businesses and residents. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the historic church and its new building — where congregants now meet and where the flags were placed — are a short walk from the home of King's grandparents, where the slain civil rights leader lived for the first 12 years of his life.

It was the latest volley in the fight over the Confederate flag and Civil War-era monuments ever since a white gunman was accused of killing nine black church members in South Carolina. Statues of the secessionist, pro-slavery Confederacy have been vandalized around the South, and state governments in South Carolina and Alabama have removed rebel battle flags entirely from Capitol grounds. The flag

is claimed by some white southerners as a symbol of regional and ancestral pride, but has also been used by white supremacists and is seen by many African-Americans and as a symbol of oppression.

The Rev. Raphael Warnock, senior pastor at Ebenezer, called placing the flags a "terroristic threat."

"It is a hateful act," he said. "I view it as an effort to intimidate us in some way, and we will not be intimidated."

Atlanta police Officer Gary Wade said a maintenance worker discovered the flags at 6 a.m. Thursday and notified the National Park Service, which operates the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, which is adjacent to the church.

"Our grounds men were so upset, they took pictures and then they moved them," said the Rev. Shanan Jones of Ebenezer Baptist. The flags weren't stuck in the ground but instead set neatly on top of it. □

Executive, daughter on college trip killed in plane crash

**GRETCHEN EHLKE
MARK PRATT**

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The victims of a fiery plane crash in Milwaukee were identified Thursday as a top executive at a Boston capital investment firm and his teenage daughter who were traveling to the Midwest for a college visit.

Joseph Trustey, a former Army captain, and his 18-year-old daughter, Anna, died when their small single-engine plane crashed and erupted in flames Wednesday evening at Timmerman Airport, according to Summit Part-



Milwaukee County firefighters and law enforcement officers respond to a crash site of a small plane which caught fire Wednesday, July 29, 2015, at Timmerman Airport in Milwaukee. Milwaukee County Department of Transportation Director Brian Dranzik said in a statement the accident happened around 6:15 p.m. Wednesday at the airport on the city's northwest side.

(Rick Wood/Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel via AP)

ners, where Trustey was an executive.

Witnesses reported being unable to help because of flames and smoke.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating, and there was no immediate word on what caused the crash.

Trustey, of Wenham, Massachusetts, had a chemical engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he served on an advisory council, and an MBA from Harvard University, according to his online company profile. He was on the board of several nonprofits

and previously worked as a consultant with Bain & Co., where he worked under former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

"He was a wonderful husband and father who also cared deeply for those with whom he worked, both inside and outside the firm," Summit chief investment officer Martin Manion said.

"We cannot express how much we will miss his presence in our lives."

Romney released a statement saying Trustey was a good, loyal friend "of uncommon intellect and capacity." □

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Trump turns golf trip into extension of campaign trail

STEVE DOUGLAS
AP Sports Writer

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP)

— Donald Trump turned a brief trip to a golf tournament in Scotland into an extension of his presidential campaign trail when he attended the Women's British Open at his plush Turnberry resort on Thursday.

The first round of one of the high-profile events in women's golf wound up being a mere sideshow from the moment the Republican arrived at the course with family members in his private helicopter, declaring "the world has asked me to be here."

Questions to Trump were restricted to golf and his future plans for Turnberry, the world's media had been warned. It didn't turn out that way.

Wearing a red hat emblazoned with his campaign slogan "Make America Great Again," the billionaire celebrity businessman spoke of how he would "get along very well" with Russian President Vladimir Putin and make the U.S. military "so strong that nobody would mess with us," if he became president.

Trump, whose grandmother was born in Scotland, also weighed in on British politics, saying he hoped there would not be another independence referendum in Scotland for 50 years because of the "bedlam and confusion" created by last year's vote. Trump's provocative comments on topics like immigration have commanded lots of media attention and attracted rising poll numbers, and he said he would continue stating his strong views because "we're so politically correct in our country that people are sick and tired of things not getting done."



Presidential contender Donald Trump, speaks to the media after arriving by helicopter during the 1st first day of the Women's British Open golf championship on the Turnberry golf course in Turnberry, Scotland, Thursday, July 30, 2015.

(AP Photo/Scott Heppell)

For the golf industry, though, his comments have been problematic.

The Women's British Open, the fourth of five major championships, is the big-

gest event to be staged at one of Trump's 18 golf properties since his disparaging comments about Mexicans during his presidential campaign announcement last

month. Trump said that some Mexican immigrants bring drugs and crime to the U.S., and some are rapists. Golf authorities have distanced themselves from

his remarks and an October tournament on one of Trump's courses in Los Angeles — the Grand Slam of Golf — was moved.

It was too late, though, for a potential change in venue for the Women's British Open, and Michelle Wie — one of the stars of the women's tour — said this week she believes Trump's presence at Turnberry will distract from the competition. Certainly, all eyes were on Trump when his helicopter circled Turnberry twice, above the morning starters out on the course, before landing in front of the hotel at the luxurious resort he purchased last year.

"I was like, 'Man, that's a really nice helicopter,'" said No. 2-ranked Lydia Ko, who was playing the 16th hole at the time when she heard the whirring of Trump's helicopter. "I would love one." □

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Turkey onslaught on Kurds, after IS attack, fuels anger

**DESMOND BUTLER
SUZAN FRASER**

Associated Press

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP) —

Just when it seemed Turkey was getting serious about the fight against IS, it has turned its military focus to pounding its old foe: the Kurdish rebels.

In Turkey's Kurdish heartland, the government's renewed military onslaught against the rebels has left many people crying treachery — with suspicions rife that Turkey used a brief offensive against IS as a cover to launch a broad attack against the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK. Many Kurds also are venting frustration against the United States, accusing Washington of turning a blind eye to Turkish attacks on the Kurds in exchange for logistical support on IS.

"We are used to this. Kurds have witnessed betrayal for centuries" said Axin Bro, a musician. "National powers use us for their own ends."

The U.S. had welcomed Turkey's air assault last week on the Islamic

State group, along with its decision to open air bases for American sorties, as a sign that Turkey had dropped its reluctance to fight the extremist group. Since then, Turkish jets taking off from this city in Kurdish-dominated lands have been hitting PKK targets in northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey, as the militant group has targeted military and police in Turkey.

Turkish jets again pounded PKK targets in northern Iraq in an operation Thursday that lasted two and a half hours, a government official said. He said the latest airstrikes were in retaliation for an attack on troops stationed near the border with Iraq earlier in the day that killed three soldiers. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government rules requiring prior authorization to speak to journalists.

The U.S. has said Turkey has a right to defend itself against the PKK, which Washington, like Turkey, considers a terrorist group. The PKK is affiliated with,



Musician Axin Bro, 36, talks to the Associated Press at a cafe in Diyarbakir, southeastern Turkey, Thursday, July 30, 2015. "We are used to this. Kurds have witnessed betrayal for centuries" says Bro. In Turkey's Kurdish heartland, the government's renewed military onslaught against the rebels has left many people crying treachery — with suspicions rife that Turkey used a brief offensive against IS as a cover to launch a broad attack against the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK.

(AP Photo/Desmond Butler)

but separate from, Syrian Kurdish fighters allied with the United States in its fight against the Islamic State group. Turkish officials say the Syrian Kurdish group is not a target of Turkey's operations.

Of the 1,300 people the government rounded up in a nationwide anti-terror sweep, the overwhelming number has been Kurdish. That may reflect the

PKK's greater presence in Turkish society, but Kurdish politicians charge that the government's objective is to curb the rising political power of the Kurds.

The mayor of Diyarbakir said distrust is growing toward both the government and the U.S.

"People here see that there have been several weak operations against IS while there have been repeated

operations against Kurds both politically and militarily," Gultan Kisanak said in an interview.

She said many constituents are asking whether there was a tacit deal between Turkey and the U.S. — for the U.S. to look the other way on Kurdish operations in exchange for access to Turkish air bases. The White House has denied such claims. □

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Al-Qaida abducts US-backed rebels in Syria

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of a U.S.-backed rebel group and several of his men have been abducted in northern Syria by the al-Qaida-affiliated Nusra Front, the rebel group and opposition activists said Thursday.

A statement issued in the name of the group, "Division 30," accused the Nusra Front of abducting Col. Nadim al-Hassan and several other members of the group in the northern Aleppo countryside. It called for their immediate release "to avoid bloodshed between Muslims." There was no official comment from the Nusra Front, which has in the past moved against rebel groups backed by the United States. Last year, the extremist group routed the U.S.-backed Haraqat Hazm rebel group and the Syria Revolutionary Front from their main northern strongholds in the Idlib

province, dealing a blow to U.S. efforts to arm and train Syrian rebels.

The kidnapping, which occurred Wednesday night, came a few days after the U.S. and Turkey announced the outlines of a deal to help rebels push IS back from a strip of territory it controls along the Syrian-Turkish border, replacing it with more moderate rebels backed by Washington and Ankara.

A representative of "Division 30" said reports that the group was Western-backed were likely the reason behind the kidnapping. He declined to say whether his group was among those trained by the U.S., saying only: "The Division supports any side that helps Syria and the Syrians against Daesh." The representative spoke on condition of anonymity for security considerations. Daesh is an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Thursday that al-Hassan is a Syrian army defector who now heads a brigade known as "Division 30."

Observatory director Rami Abdurrahman said members of "Division 30" were among rebels who were trained by the U.S. to fight the Islamic State group and recently entered Syria. He said al-Hassan was abducted near the border town of Azaz along with six members of the group as they were returning from a meeting Wednesday night. Abu al-Hassan Marea, a Syrian activist who is currently in Turkey near the Syrian border, said the group was abducted by masked gunmen most likely belonging to the Nusra Front. He said the "Division 30" group had received training in Turkey, but did not know whether it was by the Americans. □

Greek leader seeks to quash rebellion with party vote

M. HADJICOSTIS
D. GATOPOULOS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — In a bid to consolidate his political support and complete a crucial bailout with creditors, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on Thursday called for a vote within his party to decisively sideline rebels opposed to the rescue deal.

The radical-left Syriza party members would be asked in the vote, slated for Sunday, whether they accept his plans to reach a deal on a package of loans from creditors in exchange for more tax increases and budget savings.

Tsipras is gambling that with a win, he would neutralize the rebel party members, a group who contend the terms are too painful and that Greece would be better off leaving the euro.

The rebels' constant opposition threatens to splinter the party and government

and has raised the possibility of fresh elections in the autumn — which would create new uncertainty just as the country tries to get its economy back on its feet. Addressing the party's 200-strong decision-making body, Tsipras likened the vote to putting "the pin back in the hand grenade." "We have to agree that we can't go on this way," Tsipras said, adding that "the absurdity of this peculiar and unprecedented dualism" within the party must stop.

The vote could precede an extraordinary party congress in September, when the Greek government hopes to have concluded the rescue agreement, strengthening Tsipras' hold on power.

In two successive votes in parliament this month, nearly a fourth of Syriza's lawmakers refused to support new austerity measures demanded by credi-



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras addresses a meeting of his ruling radical left Syriza party's central committee in Athens, on Thursday, July 30, 2015. Tsipras called for an extraordinary party congress in September, after Greece is expected to seal a new bailout deal with its international creditors, in a bid to end a rebellion by his hardline lawmakers that is threatening to topple his coalition government. (AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

tors before a third bailout deal worth an estimated 85 billion euros (\$93.12 billion)

can be sealed. Far-left dissenters argue Syriza has abandoned its

principles over the past six months under the country's popular prime minister. □



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Man stabs several people at Jerusalem gay pride parade

MIRIAM BERGER
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Revelers dancing and singing through the streets of Jerusalem during the holy city's annual gay pride parade were left shrieking in pain and panic Thursday night, as an anti-gay extremist lunged into a group leading the march and stabbed six people, Israeli police and witnesses said.

Police said the attacker, Yishai Schlissel, who was arrested at the scene for Thursday's attack, had been released from prison just three weeks ago, after serving a sentence for stabbing several people at the parade in 2005.

Six people were wounded in the attack, two of them seriously, Eli Bin of Israel's emergency service said.

The Gay Pride Parade was proceeding as planned with party music, Israeli flags and rainbow-clad marchers wending their

way through central Jerusalem's barricaded streets, under a heavy police presence.

An Associated Press photographer witnessed the attacker enter the throng of people with his hand in his coat and within seconds raise a knife and begin stabbing people in the back. Police pounced on him and arrested him.

The crowd's carefree cheers suddenly gave way to screams. Panic ensued, and a bloody woman fell to the ground, an Associated Press photographer at the scene said.

A man with blood seeping from his back wandered around with a dazed look before collapsing. Another man with his shirt off also had blood dripping down his back. Medics quickly surrounded them both and applied pressure to stop the bleeding.

Shocked revelers, some in tears, gathered along the sidewalk and hugged and



Ultra Orthodox Jew Yishai Schlissel is detained by plain-clothes police officers after he stabbed people during a gay pride parade in Jerusalem on Thursday, July 30, 2015. Schlisse was recently released from prison after serving a term for stabbing several people at a gay pride parade in 2005, a police spokeswoman said. (AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

comforted each other as ambulances and police on horses quickly arrived. While the attack caused shock, it was not unprecedented: Schlissel was convicted of a similar stabbing attack that wounded sev-

eral people at a gay pride parade in Jerusalem a decade ago. On Thursday, media reports said that Schlissel hid in a nearby supermarket and jumped out to attack the march when it passed

nearby. Jerusalem police spokesman Asi Ahroni said there was a "massive presence" of police securing the parade but "unfortunately the man managed to pull out a knife and attack." □



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Libya: Jihadis driving IS from east stronghold

ESSAM ZUBER
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — A rival Libyan jihadi group has driven an Islamic State affiliate from most of its eastern stronghold of Darna, in fighting that killed 40 militants on both sides, officials said Thursday.

They said that at least 27 IS fighters were killed the night before when the Shura Council of Jihadis attacked the group in the coastal city, where IS gained its first foothold in Libya last year. Medical officials said 13 Council fighters were killed and 20 wounded. The Council said in a statement that the push Wednesday night

had driven the last IS remnants from the city center. It plans to pursue the remaining IS fighters, who have fled to the nearby mountain suburb of al-Fatayah. Forces loyal to the internationally recognized government based in Libya's east have meanwhile surrounded Darna and were moving in on it from the south, seeking to drive out all of the jihadis, military officials said. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Libya is bitterly divided between an elected parliament and government based in the eastern city

of Tobruk, with little power on the ground, and an Islamist militia-backed government in the capital, Tripoli. Hundreds of militias are aligned with either side or battling on their own for power and turf.

Troops loyal to the eastern government and led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter have surrounded Darna for months and until recently appeared to refrain from getting involved in the fighting between the various jihadi militias.

Last month, the al-Qaida-linked militias pushed most of the Islamic State militants out of the city center, which they had controlled since late last year. □



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Iraqis take mandatory day off as heat wave smothers Mideast



People buy blocks of ice in Basra, 340 miles (550 kilometers) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, July 30, 2015. Scorching temperatures are normal this time of year, but an unprecedented heat wave prompted Iraqi authorities to declare a mandatory four-day holiday beginning Thursday. The government has urged residents to stay out of the sun and drink plenty of water.
 (AP Photo/ Nabil al-Jurani)

**VIVIAN SALAMA
 SINAN SALAHEDDIN
 Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — It's a 15-minute walk through a lush palm grove from Baghdad's al-Takia refugee camp to the nearest well, but as temperatures hovered around 52 degrees Celsius (126 F) on Thursday, Zakiyah Abdullah, who is eight months pregnant, said it felt like an eternity. Scorching temperatures are normal this time of year, but an unprecedented heat wave prompted Iraqi authorities to declare a mandatory four-day holiday beginning Thursday. The government has urged residents to stay out of the sun and drink plenty of water, but for Abdullah and many of the more than 3 million Iraqis displaced by conflict, that poses a dilemma.

Abdullah, whose face is visibly sunburned, says she

is nauseous from the heat and worried about the baby's health. So with sons Omar, 3, and Abdulkader, 7, in tow, she ventured to the well, walking slowly and taking deep breaths. When they reached the well, Abdulkader squatted down with his white bucket to collect the water — only nothing came out. "Turn it on!" Omar screeched. "It is on! It's not working!" Abdulkader replied. Chronic electricity and water cuts in Iraq and other conflict-ridden countries make heat waves like the present one even more unbearable — particularly for the more than 14 million people displaced by violence across the region. In the southern Iraqi city of Basra earlier this month, protesters clashed with police as they demonstrated for better power services, leaving one person dead.

"Turn it on!" Omar screeched.

"It is on! It's not working!" Abdulkader replied.

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Unlike other countries in the region, Iraq lacks beaches and travel restrictions make it difficult for people to escape the sweltering heat, leaving many — even those fortunate enough to live in their homes — with limited options for cooling off. Some swim in rivers and irrigation canals, while others spend these days in air-conditioned shopping malls.

To the south, in the similarly sweltering Gulf, residents cranked up their air conditioners, and elsewhere in the Middle East, those who could headed to the beach to escape Thursday's soaring temperatures, high even by the standards of the region. It is not uncommon for well-off Gulf citizens to decamp with their luxury cars and servants to cooler spots such as Britain or Switzerland as temperatures rise. Saudi Arabia's

King Salman, joined by a delegation numbering in the hundreds, is currently cooling off in the south of France.

Several Gulf states, including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, mandate midday breaks when temperatures are at their highest for low-paid migrant laborers during the summer months. But that only provides some relief as many still spend long hours working in the heat and travel to job sites on buses without air conditioning.

A Filipino migrant rights activist collapsed and later died of apparent heat stroke during a visit to his country's consulate in Dubai this week.

One of the hottest spots in the Gulf was Kuwait City, where Thursday temperatures were expected to reach 48 C (118 F). The civil aviation authority's meteorological department forecast daytime conditions as "very hot" and overnight temperatures as "relatively hot," with moderate winds providing little relief.

Kuwaitis nonetheless took it in stride.

"Honestly, everyone has adapted to the heat. Most activities are only indoors and air-conditioned," said Fajer al-Matrouk, 25, who works in marketing. "Life goes on despite the insane heat!"

Nazem al-Ghabra, 31, who works in corporate communications, agreed. □

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LATIN BRIEFS

Venezuela's top beer firm halting work at 2 plants

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's largest beer manufacturer is shutting some of its plants because of a lack of imported barley. The federation of beer brewers announced Thursday that the beer-making subsidy of Empresas Polar will suspend operations at two of its six plants due to the shortage. The federation says the problem could be resolved next month. Polar is Venezuela's largest privately held company and distributes a majority of the country's beer. The federation says the closures could hinder a quarter of domestic beer production. Venezuela is grappling with chronic shortages of staples including cooking oil, toilet paper and sugar that businesses blame on the socialist government's economic policies. President Nicolas Maduro has accused Polar of sabotaging the economy by hoarding goods and intentionally creating shortages, a charge the company has denied.

Merchant's death upends Colombia-Venezuela border

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian street vendors clashed for hours with Venezuela's national guard this week after an alleged Colombian smuggler was killed, leading authorities to briefly close the main border crossing between the two countries. Officials in Colombia said the trouble began when Venezuelan authorities discovered a man on a hidden trail trying to smuggle goods across the notoriously porous border and the man died in the confrontation. As news of the death spread, more than 100 Colombian vendors began protesting on the Venezuelan side of the Simon Bolivar bridge connecting the two countries. That escalated into more than eight hours of clashes as riot police fired tear gas and masked demonstrators burned fires. □

India hangs man sentenced for 1993 Mumbai blasts

MUNEEZA NAQVI
Associated Press
NEW DELHI (AP) — Ignoring

dia and in the last decade only two others have taken place, both of terror con-

sapp after the funeral procession started. And while media was gagged, the

hundreds of paramilitary and police were posted nearby.

His lawyers had mounted a last-ditch effort to save him, including arguments at the Supreme Court just two hours before the sentence was carried out.

Prominent citizens, including retired Supreme Court judges, had urged President Pranab Mukerjee to commute Memon's sentence to life in prison. That appeal reflected both opposition to the death penalty as well as fresh claims by his lawyers that he freely surrendered to Indian authorities in Kathmandu, Nepal, and that his direct links to the bombings had not been sufficiently established. Indian investigators, along with the main public prosecutor in the case, Ujjwal Nikam, say he was arrested in New Delhi.

"I have exhausted my remedies," lawyer Anand Grover told reporters after the Supreme Court heard Memon's final plea. "I only hope that Yakub Memon will have a dignified death." Attorney General Mukul Rohtagi said: "There's no question of victory. I've just done my job."

Memon was convicted in 2007 of helping raise funds for the blasts that struck the Bombay Stock Exchange, Airlia offices, a state transport office, three hotels, a gas station and a movie theater over two hours on March 12, 1993. □



Social activists condemn the hanging of Yakub Abdul Razak Memon, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, July 30, 2015. Memon, 53, an Indian accountant and the only person sentenced to death for his role in the 1993 Mumbai bombings that killed 257 people — the country's worst terrorist attack — was hanged Thursday on his birthday, after the president rejected a last-minute mercy plea amid a debate over the capital punishment.

(AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

pleas and petitions by civil society groups, India on Thursday hanged an accountant convicted of supporting the 1993 Mumbai bombings that killed 257 people in the country's worst terrorist attack. The police barred media from publishing images of Yakub Abdul Razak Memon's funeral, apparently fearing a backlash against the execution that many said was driven by politics. Executions are rare in In-

victs like Memon. The earlier two executions were conducted in extreme secrecy and announced only after the fact. Their bodies were not handed to their families, but were buried inside prison compounds. Memon's body was handed to his family and the police order banning media photos and video appeared at the last minute and poorly thought out. Several journalists were informed only through What-

funeral was captured on scores of cellphone cameras. By Thursday evening there were photos on Facebook that people claimed were from the funeral.

Memon was executed on his 53rd birthday at the prison in western India where he had been incarcerated since 1994.

His family took his body to Mumbai from Nagpur hours later, and thousands of people gathered outside the cemetery for the funeral. Security was tight and

Dominicans reject OAS offer on meeting with Haiti

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Dominican Republic on Wednesday rejected an offer by the Organization of American States to organize talks with Haiti on resolving a tense dispute between the two neighbors over citizenship and legal residency. OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro proposed that the Washington-based organization plan a meeting between the Caribbean countries that share the island of Hispaniola "to find paths of solution to the present difficulties," among

other recommendations. But in Santo Domingo, Dominican Foreign Minister Andres Navarro said his government never requested or requires OAS mediation. He said the Dominican Republic is ready to resume bilateral talks once Haiti "abandons its attitude to discredit the Dominican Republic." Navarro and other Dominican authorities have asserted that Haiti is spearheading an international campaign to make them look bad. Bocchit Edmond, Haiti's

ambassador to the OAS, welcomed the secretary-general's offer and said he would appoint a representative to resume talks under the guidance of the regional organization. The Dominican Republic has been under international scrutiny for immigration policies that tend to affect mostly Haitians and people of Haitian descent, who tend to be darker skinned than most Dominicans and can find themselves victims of racial discrimination. In September 2013, the Dominican Republic's Con-

stitutional Court ruled that children born in the country to non-citizens did not qualify for automatic citizenship because their migrant parents were "in transit." Most of those affected were Haitians. Dominican officials created a program for people who were born in the country but never obtained a birth certificate or other identification. Before a February deadline, only some 9,000 people applied for the program that let them register as foreigners and become naturalized citizens. □



RBC's Art Rules Aruba Hosts an Open House for Sponsors and Partners



ORANJESTAD -- Art Rules Aruba unfolding at the Rietveld Art academy on Wilhelminastreet, now in its second week, received sponsors, partners and supporters for a courtesy visit, showcasing the artistic accomplishments of the students enrolled in educational programs such as: Creative Writing, Creative Media, Dance, Theater, Music & Performance, DJ and Culinary Arts. The Open House was sponsored by Starbucks coffee, providing the free-of-charge refreshments. RBC Royal Bank's Art Rules Aruba Kicked off this year's Masters' Edition on Monday, July 20th, welcoming more than one hundred local students, determined to pursue a professional art education, and a consequent career in the arts! In 2010, The Pancake Gallery Foundation, with twin sisters Ira and Ayra Kip at the helm, started offering the educational Art program during the summer months. That same program, is now celebrating its 6th anniversary here and its second anniversary on the neighboring island of Curacao.



Over the course of the last six years, the program has seen more than 700 young aspiring artists, all local teenagers between the ages of 13 and 26, who possess a passion for the Arts and the will to develop personal talents. Since 2010, Art Rules Aruba has brought more than

60 international artists and teachers from around the world to the Island to teach art in several disciplines. Starting with 6 disciplines five years ago, Art Rules Aruba has since grown and evolved into a Masters' Edition for 2015.

Continued on Page 16

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At La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino: F&B teams hosts Colombian Independence Day-themed luncheon



EAGLE BEACH – Colombia's Independence Day was observed at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino during a fun luncheon celebration, given by the members of the Food & Beverage department. The initiative to celebrate Dia de la Independencia de Colombia, delivered a tremendous event, with authentic food, ambience, dance, the music!

As they were drinking Agua de Panela, with their delicious lunch, a bunch of Food & Beverage jokers, including Marta, Aldwin, Igmar & Pierre decided that befitting Colombia's medical reputation they will be offering surgical and cosmetic treatments, right there and then, at the Cafeteria, with various im-



plants and liposuction at a discount for the day. Their surprising medical team disguise caused great hilarity and sent the lunch crowd into fits of laughter, as they signed up for a session with the fa-

mous mock-doctors. La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino hosts monthly themed luncheon parties, entertaining its associates at the employee cafeteria with spontaneous, fun in-house productions. □





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The honorees were Mr. Chris and Mrs. Mary Jones of Spring, Texas, and Mr. Emil and Mrs. Patricia Lip-tak of Elmwood Park, New Jersey. Both couples are loyal members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Casa del Mar / Aruba Beach Club is like being home for them. Just like every year they brought the whole family to Aruba to have a wonderful vacation. The certificates were presented by

Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Nohely Cannegieter and Mr. Anthony Maduro representing the Casa Del Mar. □



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Art

Continued from Page 13

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sort & Stellaris Casino, La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino, Paradise Beach Villa's, Aaron Croes, Swing Masterz and its scholarship partners Kiwanis of Palm Beach and Curoil, offering several Art Rules Aruba Scholarships for participation.

Art Rules Aruba will close with a final showcase, at the academy's location on Saturday, August 1st, at 6:30pm. Tickets are Awg 18, and are available pre-sale and at the door. For information on the rest of the team, updates, news and more, visit www.artrules.org



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NBA Commissioner Adam Silver speaks during a media briefing for the Basketball without Borders Africa 2015 at the American International School in Johannesburg, South Africa, Thursday, July 30, 2015.

Associated Press

NBA in Africa? 'Stay tuned' for regular- season game

GERALD IMRAY
AP Sports Writer

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The NBA is in Africa for an exhibition, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver expects more important games to come.

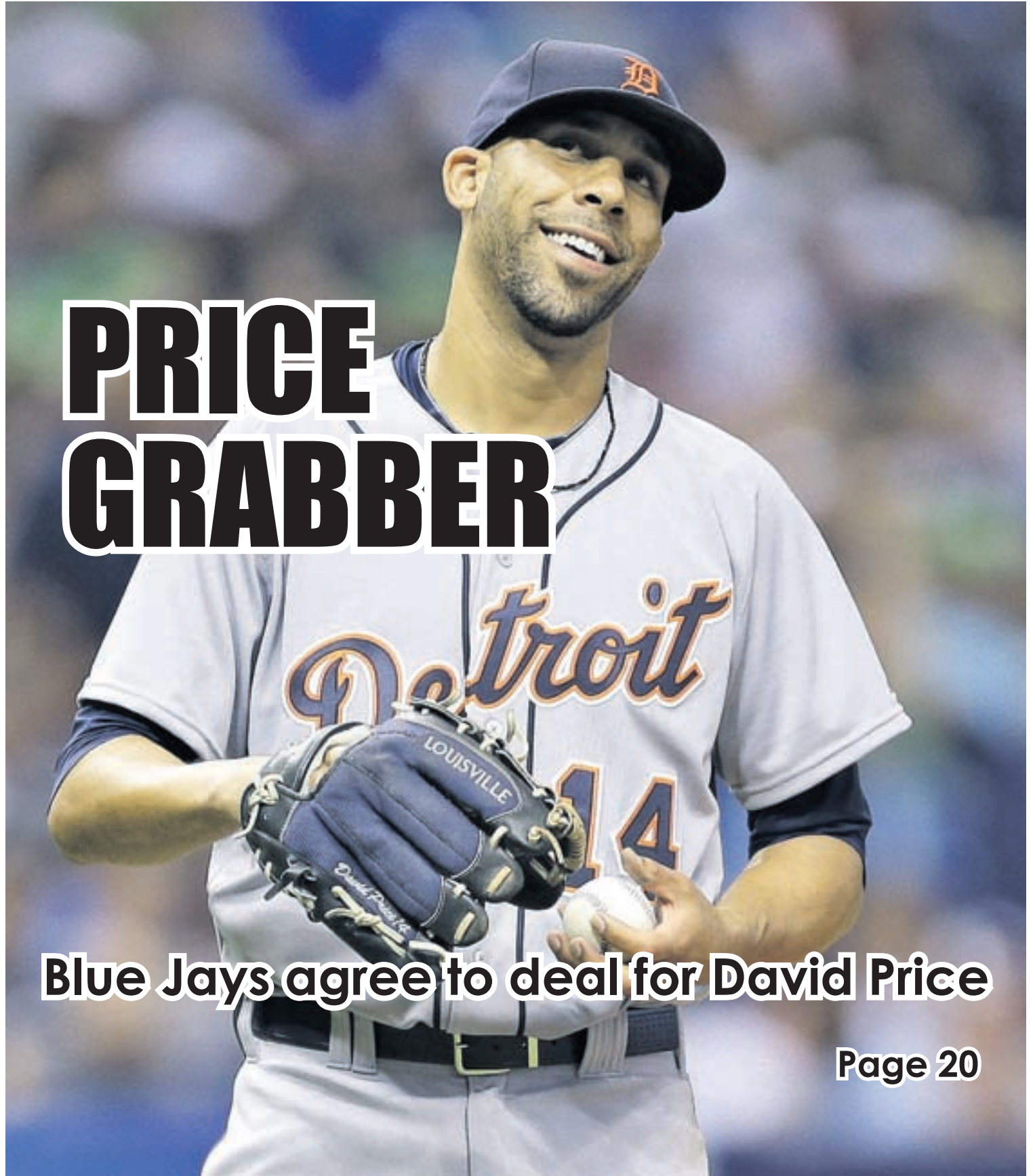
"Stay tuned," Silver said Thursday as 20 NBA stars, including Chris Paul and Luol Deng, prepare to play at a small arena in downtown Johannesburg — the first NBA game of any kind in Africa. "This is an experiment of sorts." Although he didn't give an exact time frame, Silver said a pre-season game and then a regular-season game on the continent was the logical progression for the NBA, which is on a "fast track" to build a brand in soccer-crazy Africa.

Continued on Page 19

PRICE GRABBER

Blue Jays agree to deal for David Price

Page 20



Detroit Tigers starting pitcher David Price reacts after Tampa Bay Rays' Curt Casali hit a solo home run, his second of the game, during the sixth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 28, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

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MLS attendance on rise with big-name international players

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Kaka and David Villa are raising the profile of Major League Soccer. Clint Dempsey and the U.S. national teams have done their part, too. Buoyed by international soccer icons and capitalizing on recent World Cup success by the American men's and women's national teams, the league is drawing record numbers so far this season, MLS Commissioner Don Garber said in an interview with The Associated Press this week.

MLS averages 21,109 spectators a game, a figure bolstered by the additions of Orlando City (Kaka's squad) and New York City FC (Villa's team). The 20-team league also has new television deals that allow their stars to be seen all over the globe.

Still, MLS is losing money — Garber declined to give an exact figure — as teams write big checks for top players and fund player development through academy programs to discover the next Michael Bradley, Landon Donovan or Dempsey.

"We're still in investment mode," said Garber, whose MLS All-Stars beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 on Wednesday. "But there's a lot of momentum for the sport of soccer in the U.S. and Canada and that is empowering."

Next on the docket? Expansion. Atlanta is scheduled to join MLS in 2017 and a second team in Los An-



MLS All-Star midfielder Kaka holds the player of the game trophy after he led the All-Star squad against the Tottenham Hotspur in the MLS All-Star soccer game, Wednesday, July 29, 2015, in Commerce City, Colo.
Associated Press

geles the following season. Down the road, Miami and Minnesota are expected to come on board as well. Garber threw his support behind a plan presented by retired soccer icon David Beckham to officials in Miami. Beckham and his partners are looking at the former Orange Bowl site, with the field financed privately and built on city-owned land at an estimated cost of around \$200 million.

"We believe Miami will be a great MLS market and we look forward to bringing the whole project across the finish line," Garber said. As for Minnesota, that's proving a little more challenging. With the passing of

an early July deadline for a stadium plan in Minneapolis, the league is turning its attention toward St. Paul. "We've now become intrigued by a possibility of having a stadium be in St. Paul," Garber said. "Similar with Miami, though, without a stadium, you can't go forward anywhere. But we remain hopeful." Other potential markets include Sacramento, St. Louis or San Diego, he said. "That speaks to this overall growth period that we're going through," Garber said. "You have to do expansion right. There's no rush. If we have to wait any period of time to get it right, we're willing to do that."

Garber is encouraged by the number of foreign players headlining MLS rosters — and not just as a last resort.

Sebastian Giovinco, the 28-year-old former Juventus standout, has 13 goals and 10 assists for Toronto FC this season.

Then there's Kaka and Villa, a pair of 33-year-old highly decorated players who are demonstrating they still have flashy moves. Kaka scored on a penalty kick in the MLS All-Star game and set up Villa's goal.

"We're still going through these unique phases that are determining what this league will look like," Garber said. "We don't know what MLS will look like two

years from now.

"But if a fan lives in a market with an MLS team, we hope they'll be deeply connected with our local club. Paint their face and wave a flag, put on a club jersey and celebrate this game. Think of this league as a league of their own." Other topics Garber touched on:

ALL-STAR FORMAT: Garber is open to looking at a possible return to the East-West format for the All-Star game. However, the contest featuring an international opponent has been a big hit. "It provides us the platform to stand toe-to-toe against all the big clubs and say, 'Hey, we can get in the ring with you guys,'" Garber said. "It creates a real profile."

NO SIMMERING BEEF: Garber said he's on good terms with U.S. national team coach Jurgen Klinsmann. The pair had a public spat last year, when Garber criticized Klinsmann for not taking Donovan to the World Cup and also for saying Dempsey and Bradley damaged their careers by returning to MLS from European clubs. "I'm a big supporter of Jurgen. I have no doubt his intentions are good," Garber said.

PRIME TIME: Through new TV deals, MLS games can be watched in Europe, South America, Asia and Africa. "When you have David Villa, Steven Gerrard, and Frank Lampard and Kaka in your league, the rest of the world is going to pay attention," Garber said. □



National Basketball Association (NBA) player Mbah a Moute, right, watches a young girl shoot the ball during their visit to the newly built Boys and Girls Club at Protea Glen in Soweto, South Africa, Thursday, July 30, 2015.

Associated Press

NBA

Continued from Page 17

"Part of why I'm here is to continue to investigate new facilities," Silver said. "We would want a larger, more modern arena for a regular or pre-season game here. And it's also to test the response here. These things just take time, but I'm very confident that in the not-too-distant future we will be playing, to begin with, a pre-season game on the continent of Africa."

Having already explored possibilities in China and Europe, Africa's next for the NBA, which has brought some big names — coaches as well as players — to Johannesburg for Saturday's exhibition game at Ellis Park Arena.

There's Paul, an eight-time All Star, who will captain Team World. Deng, a two-time All Star, will lead a Team Africa. Pau and Marc Gasol have also made the trip, as has San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popo-

vich and coach of the year Mike Budenholzer of the Atlanta Hawks. Also on the rosters are Al-Farouq Aminu and Giannis Antetokounmpo, who both have parents from Nigeria. This game's the next step in the league's links to Africa that began with the first-round draft of Hakeem Olajuwon by the Houston Rockets in 1984, Silver said. Olajuwon, who is from Nigeria and is part of this trip to South Africa as an NBA ambassador, went on to become a two-time NBA champion and 12-time All Star. The NBA's presence in Africa, and particularly southern Africa, is still comparatively small. On Saturday, the stars will play at an old, 4,000-seat arena, tiny for NBA standards. But it's sold out and it's a start, Silver told a small group of reporters at his hotel.

"What I'd like to see is a group of some of our very best players showcasing the game, demonstrating how fun and exciting the game is," Silver said. "The players are bringing their talents direct to Johannes-

burg as opposed to people getting it off media." The low profile of the NBA in South Africa can also work in players' favor for now, with some of the NBA's top names walking around their hotel lobby in suburban Johannesburg unnoticed by locals. Some of them will use the offseason trip to go on a safari and visit the foundation of late South African president Nelson Mandela, Silver said, among other excursions. There will also be visits to museums, and coaching clinics in poorer neighborhoods around Johannesburg. Even Silver, who got married recently, said he was taking the opportunity for a honeymoon after the game. He and his wife will go to the Seychelles, off the east coast of Africa.

Silver said there was a large amount of "symbol-

ism" to the NBA's visit to Africa and its first game on the continent, comparing it in some ways to President Barack Obama's recent trips to Kenya and Ethiopia. "(It's) so much more than just a game," Silver said. Adding to the symbolism, the Team World versus Team Africa exhibition will take place at the same stadium complex where

the late Mandela famously wore a South African rugby jersey to a game in 1995 to help unite the country as it emerged from apartheid, the story told in Clint Eastwood's "Invictus" movie. The NBA players were aware of that connection, Silver said, after they attended talks this week by members of the league's Africa office. □

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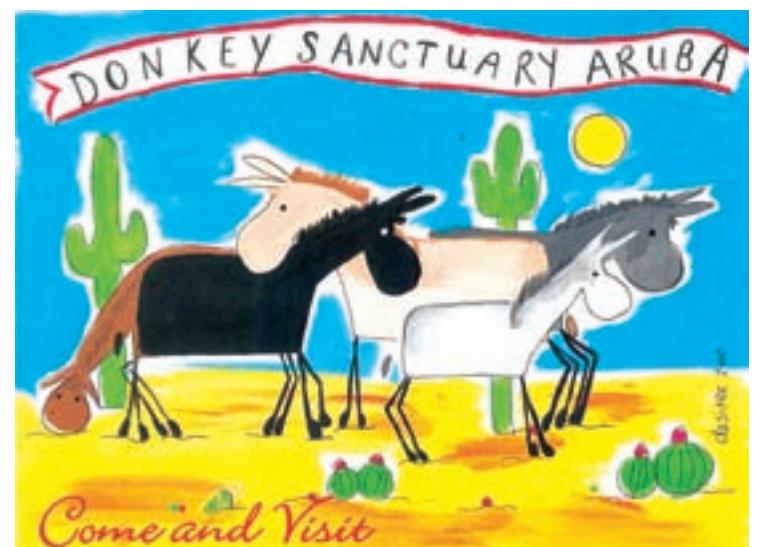
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Blue Jays land Price in Toronto's 2nd big trade

NOAH TRISTER

AP Baseball Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Toronto acquired All-Star left-hander David Price from the Detroit Tigers on Thursday, the second major move in less than a week by the Blue Jays as they chase their first postseason appearance since 1993.

After obtaining slugging shortstop Troy Tulowitzki from Colorado, the Blue Jays tried to shore up their rotation by adding Price, likely the top remaining starting pitcher on the market.

"These types of players, the great superstar players, rarely become available," Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos said. "We think we're a good team and adding a guy like Price we think makes us that much stronger and will give us a chance to win. It's as simple as that."

The Blue Jays sent left-handers Daniel Norris, Matt Boyd and Jairo Labourt to the Tigers in the deal. Price can become a free agent after this season.

Speaking in the Detroit clubhouse before the Tigers faced the Orioles in Baltimore, Price was excited about joining a contender — even if he did refer to the Blue Jays as "they" instead of "we."

"They've got a good thing going on right now in Toronto," he said. "They've kind of been in this situation before and didn't make these type of moves. It definitely shows you that they want to win right now. You have to respect that. You



Detroit Tigers starting pitcher David Price delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 28, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

have to like it and that's what you want to be a part of."

Toronto has scored more runs than any other team in the major leagues but still had a .500 record heading into Thursday night's game against the Royals. The Blue Jays trailed Minnesota by two games for the AL's second wild card and were seven behind the AL East-leading New York Yankees. Now, however, the Blue Jays appear ripe to make a run.

"By adding these two," Toronto manager John Gibbons said, "it gives me a shot in the arm. I know that." Jays third baseman Josh Donaldson said: "You look around the clubhouse,

you're going to see a lot of All-Stars. It feels like you're almost playing fantasy baseball."

Price was traded at the deadline for a second straight year. He went from Tampa Bay to Detroit in a three-team blockbuster last July — one of several bold moves the Tigers have made over the last few seasons while winning four straight AL Central titles.

Although the Tigers were only 3 1/2 games behind a wild-card berth, they were in fourth place in their division entering Thursday's game at Baltimore. This deal was made with an eye toward the future. Detroit could be a contender again in 2016, but

the coming days, weeks and months will probably include plenty of changes. "When you lose a pitcher like David Price, you don't generally think you're getting better," Ausmus said. Ausmus could only hope the deal would not have a lasting negative effect in the Detroit clubhouse.

"I'm sure the guys aren't happy that they're losing David Price. Who would be?" he said. "It will probably sting for a few days, but (they'll) get past it." But there's speculation that Tigers right-hander Joakim Soria might not make it past Friday's non-waiver trade deadline.

"Whatever decision they make, it's their choice and

nothing that I can control," Soria said.

The Blue Jays, meanwhile, appear intent upon shaping their own destiny. Toronto hasn't played in the postseason since Joe Carter's home run won the 1993 World Series against Philadelphia, the longest playoffs drought in the major leagues.

"At this point," Anthopoulos said, "we're trying to give ourselves the best opportunity to get in the playoffs."

Price is 9-4 with a 2.53 ERA this season. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner will anchor a Toronto rotation that includes Mark Buehrle and 2012 NL Cy Young winner R.A. Dickey. The Blue Jays may not need stellar pitching down the stretch with a lineup that includes Tulowitzki, Jose Bautista, Josh Donaldson and Edwin Encarnacion, but Price gives them a true ace — which could come in handy if Toronto does end up in the one-game, wild-card playoff.

The Blue Jays will pay the \$7,122,151 remaining on Price's \$19.75 million salary this season.

"I'm going to be a Blue Jay now. That's just part of the business," Price said. "We have a very talented group of guys in here and so do the Blue Jays. So I'll go there and be ready to pitch every five days and be a good teammate during the days in-between." Detroit's rotation has faltered badly after being among the game's best in 2013 and 2014. □

Tulowitzki homers and has 3 hits, Jays beat Phillies 8-2

The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Troy Tulowitzki homered and had three hits in his Blue Jays debut as Toronto beat the Philadelphia Phillies 8-2 on Wednesday night.

The five-time All-Star, who was acquired in a trade with the Colorado Rockies, went 3 for 5 with two doubles and three RBIs. He scored three times.

R.A. Dickey (5-10) allowed two runs, none earned, and seven hits in eight innings to win consecutive starts for the first time this season.

The Blue Jays snapped Philadelphia's winning streak at five games and handed the Phillies just their second loss in 11 games since the All-Star break. Toronto has won nine of the past 10 meetings with Philadelphia. Tulowitzki was cheered when he came out for pre-game stretching and got a standing ovation before his first at-bat, stepping out briefly to let the noise subside. After working the count to 2-2, he struck out swinging on a breaking ball.

Starting in the leadoff spot for the first time in his career, Tulowitzki connected for a two-run, second-deck blast off Jerome Williams in the third inning.

ASTROS 6, ANGELS 3

HOUSTON (AP) — Rookie Lance McCullers pitched seven solid innings and Preston Tucker and Jon Singleton both homered to help Houston Astros to a win over Los Angeles to regain first place in the American League West.

Houston also took the first game of the series to move ahead of the Angels, who came into town leading the division.

McCullers (5-3) allowed five hits and one run with five strikeouts to lower his ERA to 2.48.

The Astros trailed by one before a two-run fifth, capped by an RBI single by Jose Altuve made it 2-1. Tucker hit a solo homer in the sixth and Singleton's shot came in the seventh to push the lead to 4-1.

Los Angeles starter Garrett Richards (10-8) yielded seven hits and four runs in 6 1-3 innings.

RANGERS 5, YANKEES

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Colby Lewis went six innings for his 11th victory and the Texas Rangers snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over AL East-leading New York.

Adrian Beltre had two hits and scored twice for the Rangers, who won for only the second time in their last 14 home games.

After the Yankees scored two runs in the second, nine fewer than in the same inning the previous night in a 21-5 win, the Rangers went ahead to stay with three runs in the second off Masahiro Tanaka (7-4).

Beltre had a single to start the second, before Mitch Moreland walked and Josh Hamilton had the first of his two RBI singles in the game. Texas went ahead after run-scoring hits by Shin-Soo Choo and Delino DeShields.

Lewis (11-4) struck out five while scattering seven hits and allowing two runs.

TIGERS 2, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Justin Verlander outlasted Chris Archer for his first win this season and Detroit avoided a three-game sweep by beating Tampa Bay.

Verlander (1-3), who retired his first 14 batters before Asdrubal Cabrera homered on an 0-1 pitch with two outs in the fifth, gave up one run, four hits and had 10 strikeouts.

Archer (9-8) lost a perfect game bid and the lead in the seventh inning. The right-hander, 0-4 over six starts since beating Toronto on June 23, allowed two unearned runs, three hits and struck out 11 in seven innings.

Jose Iglesias became the first Tigers' base runner with a one-out infield single that Cabrera fielded between short and third, but his off-balance one-hop throw wasn't in time.

After Cabrera was charged

with an error for misplaying Yoenis Cespedes' grounder, the Tigers took a 2-1 lead on RBI singles by J.D. Martinez and Nick Castellanos, whose liner deflected off Cabrera's glove.

INDIANS 12, ROYALS 1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Corey Kluber took a shutout into the ninth, rookie Francisco Lindor hit a three-run homer and had a career-high four RBIs, and the Indians avoided a winless homestand with a victory Kansas City. Michael Brantley, Yan Gomes and rookie Giovanny Urshela hit solo homers for Cleveland, which had been outscored 37-10 in losing the first six games of the homestand. Michael Bourn was 4 for 5 as Cleveland had a season-high 18 hits.

Kluber (6-11) held Kansas City to five hits. The reigning Cy Young Award winner retired the first 12 batters before Eric Hosmer's leadoff double in the fifth. Alex Rios' RBI groundout in the ninth scored the Royals' only run. Kansas City starter Jeremy Guthrie allowed three home runs — all in the sixth inning — and hit three batters, including Brantley in the fifth. Indians manager Terry Francona was ejected by plate umpire Tom Woodring after Brantley was hit in the leg.

WHITE SOX 9, RED SOX 2

BOSTON (AP) — Adam Eaton opened the game with a home run, Jose Quintana pitched 6 1/3 solid innings and Chicago beat Boston for its seventh straight win. Eaton and Melky Cabrera both had three hits, including RBI singles. Alexei Ramirez hit a solo homer for the White Sox, who built a 6-0 lead and chased Boston starter Rick Porcello in the third inning.

Mike Napoli homered and drove in two runs for the Red Sox, who have lost 12 of 14.

Quintana (6-9) allowed two runs and six hits, striking out three and walking one. He gave up Napoli's homer into the Green Monster seats in the seventh. □



Toronto Blue Jays' Troy Tulowitzki bats lead-off during the first inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Wednesday, July 29, 2015, in Toronto.

Associated Press

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Dodgers rally in 7th for dramatic 10-7 win over A's

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pinch-hitter Kike Hernandez delivered the go-ahead, two-run double during a five-run seventh inning, and Los Angeles rallied from a three-run deficit for a wild victory over Oakland.

Yasiel Puig hit a two-run homer on his bobblehead night for the Dodgers (57-45), who snapped their three-game losing streak and avoided falling out of first place for the first time in two months.

Puig added an RBI single in the seventh, capping the Dodgers' comeback after the last-place A's scored four runs in the top half of the seventh to take a 6-3 lead.

Brett Lawrie had a ninth-inning homer among his career-high four hits and four RBIs for Oakland, which has lost five of six.

PADRES 7, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Justin Upton homered and drove in three runs and Yonder Alonso also connected as San Diego beat New York despite three long balls from Lucas Duda.

Duda hit the first of his home runs leading off the second to end Tyson Ross' streak of starts without allowing one at 16, a Padres record. Ross (7-8) hadn't given up a homer since April 28, a span of 100 innings.

Duda also connected in the sixth off Kevin Quackenbush and in the ninth off Marcos Mateo. Duda has six homers in the last four games after going through an extended slump.

REDS 1, CARDINALS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jay Bruce



Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig, right, hits a two-run home run as Oakland Athletics catcher Stephen Vogt, left, watches along with home plate umpire Brian Knight during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, July 29, 2015, in Los Angeles.

homered in the second to back Anthony DeSclafani's seven innings of three-hit ball, and Cincinnati shut out St. Louis for the second straight night.

The Reds ended a nine-series losing streak in St. Louis and have won consecutive games at Busch Stadium for the first time since July 6 and Sept. 2, 2011. It was the first time Cincinnati won consecutive games in the same series since June 2006.

Bruce's 17th home run moved him ahead of Barry Larkin to ninth in franchise history with 199 homers.

NATIONALS 7, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP) — Bryce Harper blasted two home runs into the upper deck and drove in four for Washington in a win over Miami.

Michael Taylor also homered and drove in two for Washington.

Doug Fister (4-6) picked up the win, allowing two runs and four hits in six innings. Harper's first homer, a three-run shot, came off of Tom Koehler (8-7) in the fifth inning breaking a 2-all tie.

Harper then led off the eighth by hitting a first-pitch fastball from Sam Dyson deep to right field for his 29th home run of the season. It was his third multi-home run game of the season, first since hitting two against Atlanta on May 8.

The Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki had two hits to put him over the 2,900-hit plateau.

PIRATES 10, TWINS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Andrew McCutchen hit a home run and turned an RBI single into race around the bases while Minnesota made two errors in a five-run sixth inning, helping Francisco Liriano and Pittsburgh beat Minnesota for a two-game sweep.

Jung Ho Kang homered for the second straight day for the Pirates, after going deep for the go-ahead run in the ninth the night before. McCutchen's two-run, two-strike, two-out drive off Ervin Santana (2-1) in the fifth inning tied the game at 3, and the Twins unraveled in the sixth.

One run scored on a wild pitch. Then Santana

walked two straight. Starling Marte hit a sacrifice fly, and McCutchen hit a sharp single that bounced in front of left fielder Eddie Rosario. The ball skipped past him to the warning track, allowing another run to score and McCutchen to reach third.

The slow-rolling relay throw scooted underneath Eduardo Nunez's glove for another error that allowed McCutchen to score — but not before he collided with Nunez, contact that was hard enough to knock them both to the ground. Liriano (7-6) improved to 3-0 in his last six starts. The Pirates have won five of their last six games to tighten their grip on the NL's first wild-card spot.

GIANTS 5, BREWERS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hunter Pence doubled in Matt Duffy to break a scoreless tie in the seventh inning and San Francisco held on to beat Milwaukee. Pence also made two sparkling defensive plays in the outfield as the Giants bounced back from their only loss on this six-game homestand to beat the Brewers for the fifth time in six games this season.

Ehire Adrianza added a two-run single and Brandon Crawford had a sacrifice fly for the defending

World Series champs, who scored all of their runs in the fourth.

San Francisco has won 10 of 12 games since the All-Star break.

Hunter Strickland (1-1) retired three batters for the win, his first since Sept. 27, 2014.

ORIOLES 2, BRAVES 0

BALTIMORE (AP) — Chris Tillman took a three-hitter into the ninth inning, Jonathan Schoop and J.J. Hardy homered and Baltimore beat skidding Atlanta for a three-game sweep.

Tillman (8-7) was lifted after giving up a two-out double to Cameron Maybin in the ninth. The right-hander had retired 13 straight batters to that point.

Zach Britton got the final out for his 26th save.

Tillman struck out two and walked none in winning his sixth straight decision since May 31. He's 3-0 with a 1.09 ERA in his last six starts.

The victory was the fifth straight for Baltimore, tying a season high. The surge has carried the Orioles within one game of Minnesota for the second AL wild-card slot.

Baltimore has allowed only seven runs during its winning streak, which includes its first sweep of Atlanta since 1999.

Since reaching .500 on July 7, the Braves have lost 13 of 17 overall and 10 of 11 on the road.

CUBS 3, ROCKIES 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Jon Lester struck out 14, one shy of his career high and the most for a Cubs pitcher in more than a decade, leading Chicago over Colorado. A day after he was acquired from Toronto, Jose Reyes was 1 for 3 with a walk and a stolen base in his Rockies' debut. The four-time All-Star, obtained in a trade that sent Troy Tulowitzki to Toronto, batted second and singled in his first at-bat for Colorado, then was caught stealing. Lester (6-8) struck out seven of his first eight hitters and nine of the first 14. He allowed two runs, five hits and one walk in eight innings. □

It is with deep sadness, that I announce the passing of a father figure and personal friend,

Mr. Leo Bloom

Former owner of the casino at the Aruba Caribbean Hotel, who died on July 29, 2015 at the beautiful age of 96. He leaves behind his beautiful wife, Mrs. Shirley R. Bloom and his son, Phillip D. Bloom and wife Luanne L. Bloom.

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Edwin Trimon



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Facebook ready to test giant drone for Internet service

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP) —

Facebook says it will begin test flights later this year for a solar-powered drone with a wingspan as big as a Boeing 737, in the next stage of its campaign to deliver Internet connectivity to remote parts of the world.

Engineers at the giant social network say they've built a drone with a 140-foot wingspan that weighs less than 1,000 pounds. Designed to fly at high altitudes for up to three months, it will use lasers to send Internet signals to stations on the ground.

Though Facebook is better known for online software that lets people share news with friends, watch viral videos — and view commercial advertising — engineers in a unit called the Connectivity Lab are working on a different set of problems.

For one thing, they are designing a laser communications system they hope will be accurate enough to hit a target the size of a dime at a distance of 11 miles, said Yael Maguire, director of the unit, which is responsible for drones, satellites and other high-tech communications projects. "There's a lot of moving parts here that have to work in concert," said Maguire, during a press briefing at the company's headquarters.

The project is part of a broader Facebook effort that also contemplates using satellites and other high-tech gear to deliver Internet service to hundreds of millions of people living in regions too remote for conventional broadband networks.

Other tech companies have launched similar ini-



This undated image provided by Facebook shows the Aquila, a high-altitude, long-endurance aircraft with a wingspan as big as a Boeing 737, designed by Facebook's aerospace team in the United Kingdom.

Associated Press

tiatives. Google is experimenting with high-altitude balloons as well as drones and satellites. Microsoft has funded a project that will transmit Internet signals over unused television airwaves.

Facebook also has a separate but related initiative that works with wireless carriers to provide limited mobile Internet service at no cost, in countries where residents are too poor to afford traditional wireless plans.

But the company invited reporters Thursday to hear an update on its effort to provide service to about 10 percent of the world's population who live in regions where it's not practical or too expensive to build the usual infrastructure for Internet service.

Facebook's drone was developed in part with engineering expertise that joined the company when it acquired a British aerospace startup, Ascenta, last year. Facebook engineering vice president Jay Parikh said the team created a design that uses rigid but light-weight layers

of carbon fiber, capable of flying in the frosty cold temperatures found at high altitudes, for an extended period of time.

The plan calls for using helium balloons to lift each drone into the air, Parikh said. The drones are designed to climb to 90,000 feet, safely above commercial airliners and thunderstorms, where they will fly in circles through the day. At night, he said, they will settle to about 60,000 feet to conserve battery power.

Each drone will fly in a circle with a radius of about 3 kilometers, which the engineers hope will enable it to provide Internet service to an area with a radius of about 50 kilometers.

For the plan to work, Facebook's engineers are also counting on a recent breakthrough they've made in laser optics, which Maguire said would allow them to transmit data at up to 10 gigabits per second. That's comparable to fiber networks on the ground but about 10 times

faster than standard laser signals, he said.

Facebook is designing the drones to transmit signals from one aircraft to another, so they can relay signals across a broader area on the ground, he added.

While Facebook has built and tested smaller prototypes at a plant in the United Kingdom, it's looking at a site in the United States for testing the full-sized drone, said Parikh, who declined to be more specific. Facebook hopes to share the technology with telecommunications carriers and development agencies, which it hopes will build and operate the drone networks, Parikh said. "We're not going to operate this ourselves," he added. "We're focused on finding ways to drive the industry to move faster."

CEO Mark Zuckerberg has acknowledged Facebook's business will benefit in the long run if more people gain Internet access, but he says the effort isn't driven by profit-seeking. Instead, he has said it's based on the conviction that Internet service can bring a variety of economic and social benefits to developing nations. □

Nokia launches virtual reality camera for 3D video

HELSINKI (AP) — Nokia says it's launching a virtual reality camera that will be able to capture three-dimensional video designed for professional content creators.

The ball-shaped Nokia OZO VR camera includes eight synchronized shutter sensors and eight integrated microphones for spatial audio.

The Finnish company says that specially designed software enables real-time 3D viewing on hardware such as headsets with full 360-degree imaging and spatially accurate original sound, "capturing true presence."

Nokia, which developed the product at its R&D center in Finland, presented the camera to major

studios, production houses, media and technology companies in Los Angeles on Tuesday, and said it will conduct further tests with "industry professionals" before the camera's commercial release.

Pricing and technical details will be released later with shipments expected to begin in the fourth quarter. □

Shell to cut jobs over long period of cheap oil cost

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Royal Dutch Shell announced deep cuts to jobs and investment on Thursday as the global energy giant prepares for a prolonged period of low oil prices. Shell expects to eliminate 6,500 staff and contractor positions this year as it seeks to reduce operating costs by 10 percent, the Netherlands-based company said Thursday. The company also plans to reduce capital investment by \$7 billion, or 20 percent. The cuts were announced as Shell reported that second-quarter net income fell 25 percent to \$3.99 billion. Brent crude, a benchmark for North Sea oil, averaged about \$62 a barrel during the period, down from \$110 in the second quarter of 2014.

"Today's oil price downturn could last for several years, and Shell's planning assumptions reflect today's market realities," Chief Executive Ben van Beurden said. "The company has to be resilient in today's oil price environment, even though we see the potential for a return to a \$70-\$90 oil price band in the medium term."

Shell also said it had agreed to sell a 33 percent stake in Japan's Showa Shell Sekiyu for around \$1.4 billion.

Production of oil and natural gas fell 11 percent to the equivalent of 2.73 million barrels a day during the second quarter, partly due to the sale of assets in North America and security concerns in Nigeria.

Shell plans to bolster earnings through the \$70 billion acquisition of British Gas announced in April.

The deal, which is scheduled to be completed in early 2016, will produce cost savings of about \$2.5 billion a year by 2018, the company said Thursday. Shell also said it expects to sell \$30 billion of assets between 2016 and 2018 as the two companies' holdings are combined and restructured. □

Wall Street ekes out tiny gains on mixed earnings

KEN SWEET
P Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks ended the day mostly flat on Thursday, recovering from broad losses earlier in the day. Investors continue to focus on corporate earnings, and Thursday's batch brought mostly disappointing results from Procter & Gamble, Facebook and others.

Several companies made big moves after reporting their quarterly results. This is the busiest week for corporate earnings, with 174 members of the S&P 500 reporting.

Consumer products giant Procter & Gamble fell \$3.23, or 4 percent, to \$77.39. The maker of Tide detergent and Gillette razors reported softer sales

Foods locations in New York City were overcharging customers.

Facebook fell \$1.78, or 1.8 percent, to \$95.21 after the company's results, while positive overall, included a sharp 82 percent jump in expenses as the company invested in growth. Facebook's stock hit an all-time high on July 21.

Many U.S. companies re-

when energy is excluded, revenue is still up only 1.8 percent from the same period a year earlier.

"It's really a reflection of how lackluster this economic growth has been," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank in Chicago. "Profits can be manipulated by cutting costs, buying back shares, but your top line is your top line and if you aren't growing sales, it's very hard to mask that." Investors had one batch of economic data to work through. The U.S. economy grew at a 2.3 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, rebounding from a harsh winter. Leading the growth was a surge in consumer spending, the backbone of the U.S. economy, and a recovery in foreign trade. While positive, the data looks at the U.S. economy three months ago and did little to boost stocks. In other markets, the price of oil resumed its slide after two days of gains. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 27 cents to close at \$48.52 a barrel in New York. Crude is down nearly \$11 a barrel, or 18 percent, for the month. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell 7 cents to close at \$53.31 a barrel in London. In other futures trading on the NYMEX, wholesale gasoline rose 0.6 cents to close at \$1.828 a gallon. Heating oil closed unchanged at \$1.598 a gallon. Natural gas fell 11.8 cents to close at \$2.768 per 1,000 cubic feet. □



Trader James Denaro, center, works with specialist Michael O'Connor, right, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks ended the day mostly flat on Thursday, recovering from broad losses earlier in the day.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 5.41 points, less than 0.1 percent, to end at 17,745.98. The index had been down 110 points at the beginning of the day.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed effectively unchanged, up 0.06 of a point at 2,108.63. The Nasdaq composite rose 17.05 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,128.78.

than Wall Street analysts had expected. The company, like many others, has been negatively affected by the strong dollar, which makes U.S. products more expensive abroad.

Whole Foods plunged \$4.74, or 12 percent, to \$36.08. The company reported a sharp slowdown in sales growth last quarter, partially hurt by the recent news that some Whole

porting second-quarter earnings have struggled to increase sales despite modest growth in the U.S. and elsewhere. That was evident Thursday in the results reported by P&G and Whole Foods.

FactSet estimates that revenue at companies in the S&P 500 has decreased 4 percent from a year ago, largely due to weakness in the energy sector. Even

Sony profit up 3-fold on currency gains, sensors

TOKYO (AP) — Sony said quarterly profit rose threefold as foreign exchange gains and sales of image sensors and Playstation 4 software helped offset declines elsewhere.

The Japanese electronics and entertainment giant reported Thursday that April-June net income rose to 82.4 billion yen (\$664 million) from 26.8 billion yen a year earlier.

Sales of 1.81 trillion yen

were little changed. The company said a sharp fall in smartphone and mid-range LCD television sales was offset by foreign exchange gains and strong sales of image sensors, particularly for mobile devices. Japanese manufacturers have benefited from a weak yen, which has boosted overseas earnings. In smartphones and televisions, a strategic decision not to pursue

scale in order to improve profitability led to falls of 13.8 percent in home entertainment sales and 16.3 percent in the mobile business. The movie and television business lost 11.7 billion yen, compared with a profit of 7.8 billion yen in the same quarter last year. Sony blamed the loss on a fall in licensing revenues, noting last year's performance benefited from the strong performance of The

Amazing Spider-Man 2 and 22 Jump Street.

In games, both PS4 software and peripheral devices lifted sales.

The higher demand for image sensors and foreign exchange rate helped drive up sales and profits in Sony's devices businesses.

Sony kept its outlook for the fiscal year ending March 31 unchanged, forecasting profit of 140 billion yen on sales of 7.9 trillion yen. □

P&G sales dip for sixth straight quarter on softer sales volume

CINCINNATI (AP) — Procter & Gamble's sales fell for the sixth straight quarter as the world's bigger consumer goods company was weighed down by softer sales volume and unfavorable currency exchange rates.

The maker of products including Tide, Pampers and Charmin said higher prices helped offset a decline in shipment volume for its fiscal fourth quarter. That kept sales flat after stripping out the impact of currency exchange rates, acquisitions and divestitures. Procter & Gamble, based in Cincinnati, has been trying to boost its results by cutting costs and shrinking its portfolio of products to concentrate on the 10 categories and about 65 brands where it says it is strongest. CEO A.G. Lafley noted the company is focusing on more profitable products, too. In its fab-

ric care unit, for instance, he said P&G is growing its Tide detergent pods, but getting out of cheaper "commodity" products like bleach and lower-cost powders.

"The last thing we want to do is chase volume and share that has no value," Lafley said during a conference call with analysts and investors.

But he noted that it would take time for the company to shift course. Looking ahead to its next fiscal year, the company expects organic sales to be flat to up by a low single-digit percentage. When factoring in exchange rates, it expects sales to be down in the low- to mid-single digit percentages. Earlier this week, P&G also said it named company veteran David Taylor to succeed Lafley, who returned from retirement in 2013 to serve as chief executive. □

Royal Bank of Scotland reports 27% rise in 2nd quarter profits

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Second-quarter profit at taxpayer-owned Royal Bank of Scotland rose 27 percent, it announced Thursday, but warned the cost of past scandals may continue to weigh on earnings. Net income for the period advanced to 293 million pounds (\$458 million) from 230 million pounds a year earlier as the value of RBS's stake in U.S.-based Citizens Bank increased.

Bailed out by the British government at the height of the financial crisis in 2008, RBS is struggling to put the excesses of the past behind it, including an ill-fated global expansion drive that briefly made it the world's largest bank.

The government in June said that it plans to sell part of its 80 percent stake in coming months.

Chairman Philip Hampton said Thursday that the RBS of today is very different

from the bank of 2009.

"It has a greater focus on the quality of earnings and the control of risks," he said. But the process of cleaning up past mistakes continues. RBS reported a charge of 459 million pounds for conduct and litigation costs during the second quarter, most of it related to mortgage-backed securities in the U.S. Restructuring costs increased to 1.05 billion pounds as RBS streamlines its corporate and investment banking business and prepares to sell its Williams & Glyn unit.

Chief Executive Ross McEwan warned of further charges for past scandals. "I'll not rest until these charges are behind us," he said. Further job cuts are also possible as RBS accelerates its restructuring, the bank said.

Richard Hunter, head of equities at Hargreaves Lansdown Stockbrokers, said "a number of clouds remain" for RBS. □

Raising outlook; Fiat Chrysler reports Q2 profit jump of 70%

COLLEEN BARRY
TOM KRISHER
AP Business Writers

MILAN (AP) — Fiat Chrysler Automobiles raised its outlook Thursday after strong North American sales and a European recovery drove second-quarter earnings up 70 percent despite hefty U.S. recall costs. The rosy results come after the carmaker reached agreement with safety regulators to pay millions of dollars in penalties for delays in nearly two-dozen recalls. Fiat Chrysler also agreed to take potentially defective Ram pickups and older Jeeps off the road under the deal.

CEO Sergio Marchionne downplayed the overall cost of the actions, saying that the pickup buyback wouldn't cost more than \$20 million.

The Italian-American automaker reported a net profit for the quarter ending June 30 of 333 million euros (\$364 million), compared with 197 million euros a year ago. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV also raised its full-year revenue forecast to 110 billion euros from 108 billion euros,



An assembly line worker builds a 2015 Chrysler 200 automobile at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles on Thursday, July 30, 2015 raised its revenue forecast after strong sales in North American and a recovery in the European market boosted second-quarter profits by 70 percent.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

on worldwide shipments of 4.8 million units, at the low end of the previous range. It maintained a net profit forecast of 1 billion to 1.2 billion euros.

Marchionne said the improved outlook is based on expectations of a continued strong performance in North America.

The news was viewed favorably by investors. The company's shares rose 76 cents, or 5.2 percent, to

\$15.28 in midday trading in the U.S.

Although the Ram buyback offer potentially covered 585,000 trucks with faulty steering components, Fiat Chrysler said it already has repaired 410,000, and those customers aren't eligible for the buybacks. That leaves about 175,000 eligible for repurchase at the original sales price minus depreciation, plus a 10 percent premium. □

Nokia: Profit grows as networks division turns around

MATTI HUUHTANEN
Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Nokia enjoyed a solid 60 percent rise in net profit in the second quarter, with a good performance in its core networks division suggesting the Finnish company is succeeding in turning its business around since selling its handsets operation to Microsoft in 2013.

The profit of 347 million euros (\$383 million) beat expectations and Nokia's stock jumped more than 10 percent during the day but settled to close up more than 7 percent at 6.42 euros on the Helsinki Stock Exchange.

Overall sales in the period increased 9 percent to 3.2 billion euros, helped by currency fluctuations but also

increased demand for software in mobile broadband and global services.

Hannu Rauhala, senior analyst at Pohjola Bank, said the figures had dispelled fears among investors that Nokia would suffer from a general sluggishness in global network business.

"It was a good performance for Nokia, and I think markets had been worried that it too would have shown signs of the general slowdown in the industry," Rauhala said. "But it's a long-term business and we'll have to see what happens next year."

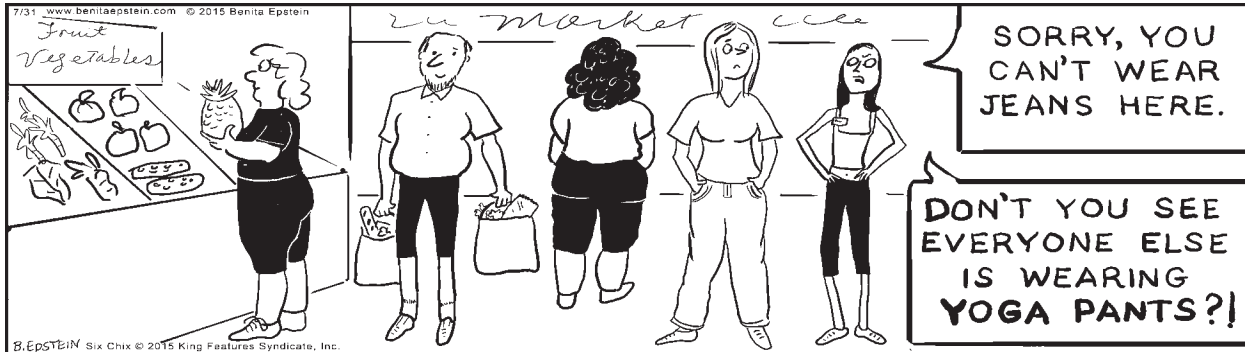
Nokia said that the networks unit, which accounts for 85 percent of total revenue, was expected to see growth of some 8 to 11 percent for the full year. It

also expects improvement in the other two remaining sectors, HERE mapping services and Nokia technologies, which manages the lucrative licensing portfolio. CEO Rajeiv Suri says he was "particularly pleased" with the performance of the networks sector, but noted that improvement in all three units has made the Finnish company "well positioned to deliver on our full-year 2015 commitments." However, he warned that telecom infrastructure conditions would remain challenging requiring further savings, and said that although Nokia will focus on software sales as "the industry continues its hardware to software migration," harder times lay ahead. □

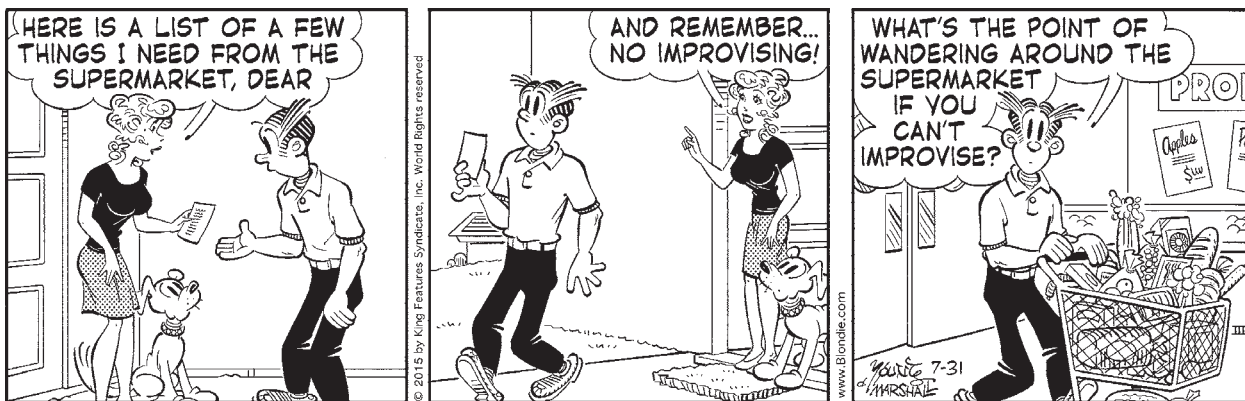
Mutts



6 Chix



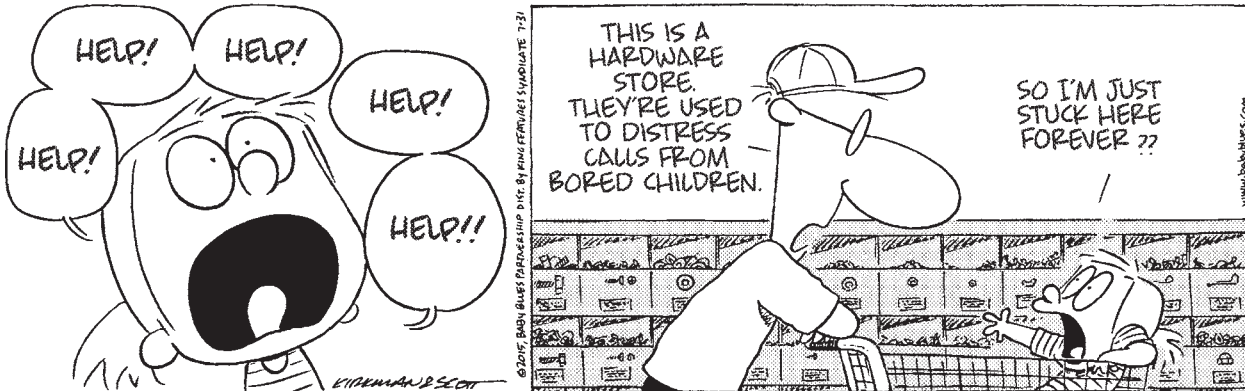
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			2					4
	5					9		3
						6		
		8		5			4	9
	9			7			8	
3	1			4		2		
	2							
4		6					7	
7				8				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

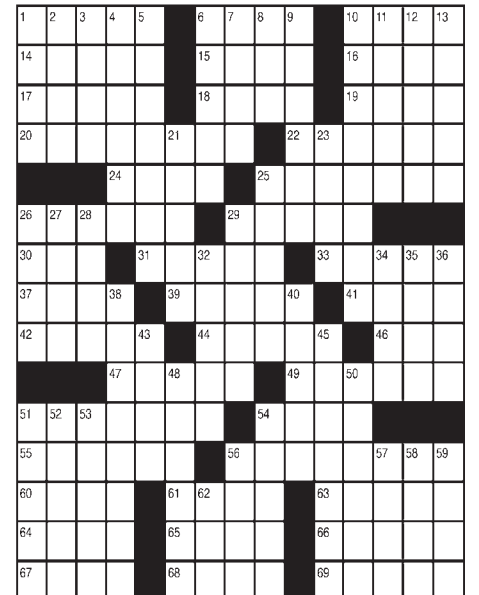
7	9	1	5	8	6	3	2	4
4	6	3	7	9	2	8	5	1
2	8	5	3	1	4	9	6	7
9	4	8	2	7	1	6	3	5
5	1	2	6	3	9	4	7	8
6	3	7	8	4	5	1	9	2
1	5	4	9	6	7	2	8	3
3	2	9	1	5	8	7	4	6
8	7	6	4	2	3	5	1	9

ACROSS

- Part of many action flicks
- Narrow
- Hot tubs
- Reddish dye
- Acting part
- Near
- Zeal
- Misfortunes
- Actress Paquin
- Determined
- Wobble
- Evergreen tree
- Sugar found in fruits
- Shop window sign at night
- Freeloader
- Little leap
- Counter an argument
- Armed robbery
- Middle-; neither young nor old
- Happen again
- Entryway
- Religious belief
- Deadly snake
- Corn site, often
- Did a lawn chore
- Bawl out
- Sinful
- Celebration
- Mariner
- Drool
- Prefix for war or body
- Reveal a secret
- Pass on, as a message
- Crawling bugs
- Lounge about
- Clear the slate
- Money
- Actress Sommer
- Writing tables

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/31/15



Thursday's Puzzle Solved

PEEL	REAMS	ACHE
LANE	ERNIE	THUG
ETTA	CONSENTING	
ASH	SOSO	OINKS
	UNTIE	DOC
CASUAL	SASSES	
ALIMB	SPADE	GIT
BLAB	STAGS	BONE
SIS	PEERS	PACED
EMBLEM	RENEWS	
	RUM	SIREN
ODIUM	PINK	TRA
PROCEDURES	GRIP	
TOTE	DROVE	PILE
SPAS	ENDED	ACES

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7/31/15

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 40 Refuse to obey | 53 Baseball gloves |
| 43 Spanish bull | 54 Story by Aesop |
| 45 On a pension | 56 Polio vaccine developer |
| 48 Sing like a bird | 57 "Woe is me!" |
| 50 Venerate | 58 Chore |
| 51 Sir Newton | 59 Peepers |
| 52 Israelites' bread from heaven | 62 Internet laugh |

United Nations adopts resolution to combat illegal wildlife trafficking

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly unanimously adopted its first-ever resolution aimed at combatting illicit trafficking in wildlife on Thursday as its sponsors expressed outrage at the killing of a beloved protected lion in Zimbabwe. The resolution, approved by consensus by the 193-member world body, is not legally binding. But its universal support reflects growing global opposition to the escalating poaching and trafficking, especially in elephant and rhinoceros horns, but also in other wild animals and plants.

It follows recent commitments by the United States and China, the world's top market for illegal ivory, to end commercial ivory trading.

The resolution, sponsored by Gabon and Germany and co-sponsored by over 70 countries, urges all nations "to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, on both the supply and demand sides."

The assembly said this should include strengthening legislation to prevent, investigate and prosecute illegal trading and called on all countries to make illicit trafficking involving organized criminal groups "a serious crime."

Gabon's Foreign Minister Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet praised the adoption of the resolution, which is the product of more than two years of negotiations, as "a historic step."

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Philae probe finds evidence that comets can be cosmic labs

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Scientists say the Philae space probe has gathered data supporting the theory that comets can serve as cosmic laboratories in which some of the essential elements for life are assembled.

Philae, which is part of the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission, used two separate instruments to 'sniff' for molecules during its bumpy landing on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko last November.

In an article published Thursday in the journal *Science*, researchers said they spent months analyzing the data and concluded that 67P contains at least 16 organic compounds. Four of them, including acetone, hadn't been detected on a comet before.

"Comets are loaded with all the raw materials like water, CO₂, methane, ammonia, needed to assemble more complex organic molecules, perhaps sparked by UV-photons from the Sun or cosmic rays, or in the shock that occurs when a comet hits the surface of a planet like the young Earth," said Mark McCaughrean, a senior scientific adviser at the European Space Agency. It's not yet known whether the complex molecules found in 67P were made in the early solar system and then incorporated into the comet or formed there later, he said. "Either way, it seems that comets are pretty good places to find the building blocks of molecules which later on could be used for life."

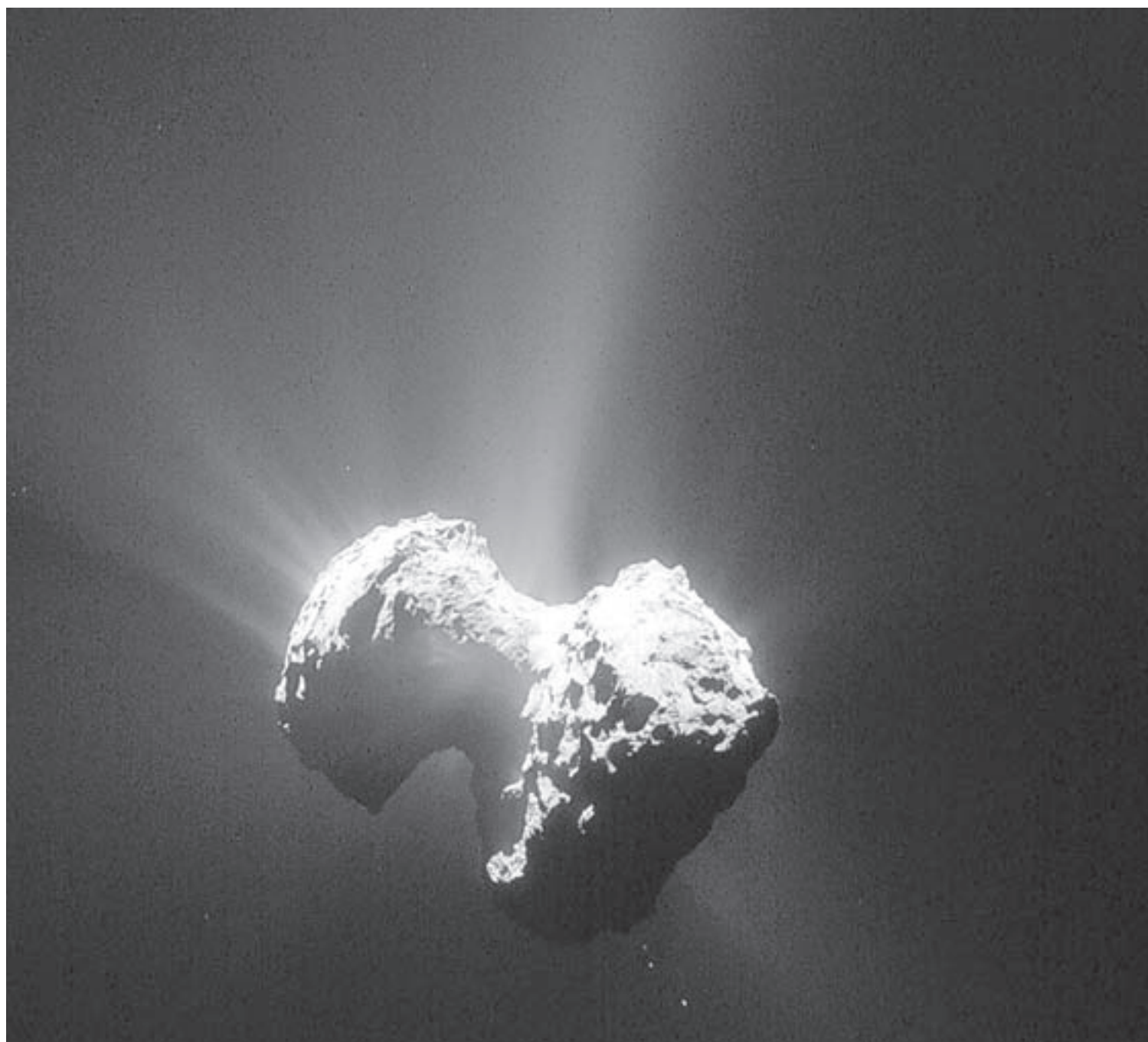
McCaughrean, who wasn't directly involved in the study, dismissed recent reports that evidence of life itself had been found on the comet. But he said

the prebiotic compounds that were detected might be coaxed into even more complex molecules such as amino acids, including by a planetary impact.

not found any amino acids on 67P yet, but that's not to say they aren't there. As Philae was only able to perform experiments for 60 hours before its batteries

bust connection to restart the scientific experiments. Still, scientists are hopeful that this will be possible as the probe and its mother ship Rosetta, which is or-

on the comet's chemical composition, scientists also published new insights about its rocky terrain and its unexpectedly hard surface, which may prove



The July 20, 2015 photo released by the European Space Agency ESA on Tuesday, July 28, 2015 shows an image of the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko with its coma taken by the Navcam camera of the Rosetta orbiter from a distance of 171km (106 miles) from the comet center.

Associated Press

Proteins, fundamental to living organisms, are made from long chains of amino acids, and the simplest one, glycine, was even detected in material collected from the tail of another comet by NASA's Stardust mission a few years ago.

The Philae scientists have

were depleted, scientists were unable to complete some of the work they had hoped to carry out.

The space probe woke up from hibernation last month, but the German space agency DLR that operates Philae has not yet been able to establish a ro-

biting the comet, accompany 67P on its journey through space.

The next important event in the mission will take place on Aug. 13, when the comet comes closest to the sun, a point known as perihelion.

Along with their findings

crucial to future comet missions.

"We have definitely learned at least one thing with this first comet landing: Bouncing is a bigger problem than a possible sinking into the ground," said Philae to project manager Stephan Ulamec. □





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It's a gift' — Leslie Odom Jr. relishes his 'Hamilton' shot

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — During an early version of the Founding Fathers musical "Hamilton," Leslie Odom Jr. was in the seats with the audience, blown away. The guy playing Aaron Burr was making him a little envious, too.

"I said to myself, 'Whoever gets to do that eight times a week is going to be the luckiest actor in New York City,'" Odom recalls. "It's the role of a lifetime."

A few months later, the New York native got a chance to make the role his own and — to snatch a line from the groundbreaking hip-hop musical — he wasn't about to throw away his shot.

"If you get one of these in a career, you did it. So I'm going to enjoy every second of this year," Odom said in his dressing room at the Richard Rodgers Theatre. "I have to remind myself that it may never be this good again."

Lin-Manuel Miranda's

buzzed-about biography about the nation's first treasury secretary opens on Broadway next week, showing America's revolutionary men and women as red-blooded, fully dimensional figures.

Odom as Burr plays the narrator and a rival to Hamilton, played by Miranda. It's a complicated relationship between colleagues with similar backgrounds but Burr eventually kills Hamilton in an 1804 pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey.

"I love that it's not about two enemies. It's about two brothers. It's about two friends," says Odom. "And it's about the erosion of that over time and how a series of tragedies and deaths and personal failures in both of their lives led them to Weehawken."

Odom, who was on TV in "Smash" and "CSI: Miami," on film in "Red Tails," and on Broadway in "Leap of Faith," says the role of Burr, which he first played off-Broadway this winter, feels like the culmination of all

his experiences.

"My perimeters are so wide and so I get to paint with all the colors in the box," he says. "I can bring up that clown that I saw at the birthday party when I was 6 years old. I can bring up my love of R&B music or growing up in the church. There's a place for all of that in this show. It's a gift." Producer Jeffrey Seller, who first met a then-teenage Odom in 1998 when he was cast for Seller's "Rent," said Odom plays Burr with jealousy and envy — and so much empathy.

"It's always been very rewarding to see how he has grown and developed as a man," Seller says. "And what a powerful, psychologically complex performer he's become."

"Hamilton" audiences have been stunned by its irreverent look at history, with Founding Fathers swearing and swaggering, having rap battles over monetary policy and using a street-hustler's cunning to get ahead. With the exception



In this May 18, 2015 file photo, Leslie Odom Jr. attends the 19th Annual Webby Awards in New York.

Associated Press

Walters to revisit big news stories including Lennon murder

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— Barbara Walters is taking a walk down memory lane with a TV series revisiting big news stories she covered in her career. The Investigation Discovery channel said Thursday that "Barbara Walters Presents American Scandals" will debut Nov. 2. The hour-long episodes focus on events ranging from political misbehavior to crime, and will include previous interviews conducted by Walters along with new material, the channel told a TV critics meeting.

The TV newswoman will look back at televangelist

Jim Bakker's sex scandal, the murder of celebrity diet doctor Herman Tarnower, the Menendez family killings and a switched-at-birth mystery.

Walters conducts a rare interview with the wife of Mark David Chapman about his killing of John Lennon, the channel said. Further episodes are planned, Investigation Discovery said.

In a statement, Walters said the years-old scandals remain enormously interesting and continue to affect the lives of people who were involved. □



In this Oct. 7, 2014 file photo, Barbara Walters addresses an audience at the John F. Kennedy School of Government on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

of King George III, the cast is entirely Latino, Asian and African-American.

"It's actually opening the door for so many Americans to feel a part of this country of the first time," Odom says. "We can feel so disenfranchised and we can feel so not a part of it, even though we helped build it."

Things came full circle this month when President Barack Obama saw the show with his daughters. The commander in chief had been on hand several years ago when Miranda debuted the first song.

Odom, who walks to the theater each day from the apartment he shares with his actress wife Nicolette Robinson, kept his focus on his breathing and vowed to keep himself grounded, despite the excess energy swirling around a presidential visit.

"It was really important to

me that we showed him our show," he says. "So much of the show couldn't have existed or wouldn't exist with the resonance that it does without a Barack Obama." In many ways, "Hamilton" reminds Odom of another musical — "Rent," which he called "a bat-signal to kids all over the world — it was rebellious, it was passionate, it was gritty. It felt like something that your parents wouldn't like."

Odom became the youngest person ever cast in the Broadway company of "Rent" at 17 and hopes to surf a similar wave of youthful energy this time with "Hamilton."

"I want us all to feel on that stage that we are being as bold and audacious and of our time — full of our time as we can possibly be," he says. "This is our moment to tell our story. I don't want to leave anything offstage." □

Here's what Betty White thinks of Cecil the lion's killing



In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, Betty White attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special in New York.

Associated Press

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

Betty White, a passionate animal activist, has harsh words for the Minnesota dentist who killed Cecil the lion while on a hunting trip in Zimbabwe this month.

"You don't want to hear some of the things I want to do to that man," the 93-year-old actress told The Associated Press on Thursday.

"It's such a heartbreaker. You can't even talk about it, and to see this king of the jungle and personifying it in every way, this gorgeous creature. How can somebody do that?"

Cecil was drawn from a wildlife preserve and shot by American hunter Wal-

ter James Palmer on July 1. Palmer is believed to have shot the lion with a bow and then the wounded cat was tracked for 40 hours before he killed it with a gun.

Palmer released a statement this week through a publicist saying he was with professional guides and believed the hunt was legal. The firm is no longer helping Palmer.

White, who said she's "loved animals since the womb," was promoting a new block of programming in August on Discovery Family Channel called "Pawgust," with shows, specials and movies about animals. White will serve as the host of "Pawgust," and be featured in promos. □

Valerie Harper hospitalized after falling ill

OGUNQUIT, Maine (AP) —

Officials at a Maine playhouse say Valerie Harper has been hospitalized after falling ill before a performance. Officials at the Ogunquit (oh-GUHNG'-kwit) Playhouse say the 75-year-old actress, who has battled cancer, was taken to a hospital Wednesday before the evening performance of "Nice Work If You Can Get It." A statement Thursday says she's "resting comfortably and will remain in the hospital for observation for the time being." □



In this May 7, 2014 file photo, actress and cancer survivor Valerie Harper, testifies before a Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing to examine the fight against cancer on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press



In this July 14, 2015 photo, Luke Bryan poses for a portrait at Audio Productions in Nashville, Tenn., to promote his latest album, "Kill the Lights."

Associated Press

With 5th album, Luke Bryan could reach even greater heights

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

Luke Bryan is easily the reigning prince of country music: He's scored 10 No. 1 hits on Billboard's Hot Country songs chart; he's one of a few contemporary acts to sell out stadiums; and he's achieved back-to-back multiplatinum albums.

But Bryan, who has been on the music scene for a decade, has yet to earn a Grammy Award — or even a nomination.

"I guess a few years ago I kind of was thinking I'd get a Grammy nomination or two and didn't," said Bryan, who had one of the top albums of both 2013 and 2014 with "Crash My Party." "Yeah, you get a little frustrated by that," he added. "I think the Grammys, sometimes accepting a guy like me is a little outside their deal."

Things could change with the release of his fifth album, "Kill the Lights," on Aug. 7.

"My focus is doing what I can musically for my fans first and foremost. ... Grammys stuff would be added, amazing stuff," he said. "I've won quite a few AMAs (American Music Awards), and it's so fun being out there and being recognized among all music as a country artist — that stuff's very flattering. And if the Grammys stuff ever happens, I'd be flattered by it."

Bryan, who turns 40 next year, has connected with young country fans thanks to his party anthems and songs about drinking and living life freely. Recent winners for Grammys for country music include acts that have hit mainstream and topped the pop charts, from Carrie Underwood to Taylor Swift to Lady Antebellum, or traditional acts in the vein of Glen Campbell. Others have been slow to give Bryan credit: He finally won his first Country Music Association Award less than a year ago when he was named entertainer of the year, the show's top prize.

"I don't feel pressure much anymore. ... Up until this point in my career, obviously there's been quite a bit of pressure, but it's fun to be in a situation where that stuff starts chilling out and you can just relax," said the married father of two boys. "My thing is I spent a lot of years trying to outdo each album ... and I feel like this album has outdone 'Crash My Party,' so now it's just about me enjoying it."

On "Kill the Lights," Bryan is stretching outside his comfort zone. He said recording the song "Razor Blade" was challenging.

"It's kind of a darker song for me — somewhere I haven't really been artistically. The main thing was me learning how to kind of capture that really, really

kind of darker side of the song," he said by phone during a break from his Kick the Dust Up Tour. "It's new territory for me. ... I had to step out of the vocal booth a couple times and get my head in the right space."

The album features the radio-ready "Home Alone Tonight," a duet with Karen Fairchild of Little Big Town; the slow-burner "Strip It Down"; "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day," an ode to Southern living; and "Kick the Dust Up," the upbeat first single that's currently No. 1 on the country charts.

Jeff Stevens, who has produced all of Bryan's albums, worked on "Kill the Lights" with his son, Jody, to give the country star some new flavor.

Stevens said Bryan co-wrote more songs this time around, which "lends a different tone for the record." "He's had an emotional year while we were making this record, lots of things going on around him including — not only family stuff — but the fact that his career keeps growing," he said. "So there's a lot of changes going on in his life and this album reflects that."

Bryan, who lives in Nashville, Tennessee, said he's mostly grown from being a live performer to perfectly crafting songs in the studio. And overall in life, he's content. □



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